

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVII.]

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BIRTHS.

On January 4th, the wife of FREDERICK T. CLOUD, American Vice-Consul-General, Shanghai, a son.

On January 9th, to Mr. and Mrs. H. WENMOUTH-STRIKE, at Shanghai a daughter.

On January 9th, at Shanghai the wife of T. N. HUGALL, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On January 7th, at Shanghai, FREDERICK GEORGE WILLIAM NEWBERRY, to NORA SELINA JULIA.

DEATHS.

On January 5th, at Suchien, North Kiangsu, EBEN, infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Junkin, of the Southern Presbyterian Mission.

On January 7th, at Shanghai, CHRISTIAN MOHR, aged 31 years.

On January 8th, at Hangehow, MARY VAUGHAN (Church Missionary Society), in her 59th year.

At the Hongkong Hotel January 14th 1908, E. L. WOODIN, aged 68 years (late of the P. and O. Company's service).

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VIEUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of December 17th arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Heinrich*, on Wednesday, the 15th instant, and the French Mail of December 20th arrived, per the s.s. *Oceanien*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne takes over the duties of Governor of the Jail on Jan. 15th, Mr. P. H. A. Craig, the present superintendent, going home on leave.

Mr. G. Friesland, of Messrs. Melchers & Co., has joined the board of directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in place of Mr. Armin Haupt.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo January 11th, said:—It is officially announced that Mr. Kogora Takahira, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited to the Court of Rome, has been appointed Ambassador to Washington, Viscount Aoki being relieved.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during December shows the average maximum temperature for that month to be 67 deg; the mean 61.9; and the minimum 57.2 degrees. There was a total rainfall of 1.46 inches, and we had 15.5 hours of sunshine.

The remains of the late Mr. F. L. Woodin were interred at Happy Valley on January 15th, the Rev. F. T. Johnson conducting the burial service. Wreaths were forwarded by Mr. F. Osborne, Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. Paterson, Mr. T. Hunter and the Hongkong Hotel Company, while among others who attended the funeral were the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. Osborne, Captain Hall and Messrs. J. Oringa, W. Danby, A. Dugh, T. I. Rose, Paterson, C. H. Grace, A. G. Wood and A. F. Davies.

There was issued on January 9th a Decree stating that His Majesty the Emperor will sacrifice personally at the supplementary worship in the Imperial Ancestral Temple on the day before Chinese New Year's Eve (January 31). Hsi Chuang and En Hui are commanded to sacrifice at the minor altars of the Temple. On January 30th at the special worship in the same Temple Prince Tsai Kung is ordered to sacrifice in the Rear Hall and Shao Chi (Prince Su) in the Middle Hall. K'uei Liao is commanded to sacrifice to the divinity of the Year on January 31 and Wen Hai and Jui Fün to assist at the minor altars.

The China Navigation Co.'s steamer "Teau" (Capt. Unterbridge) on her arrival from Manila on Jan. 19th proceeded to K'wai-shan docks for repairs. While the "Teau" was lying at her buoy in Manila harbour with lighters alongside discharging cargo on the 3rd inst. at 3.45 p.m., the U.S. Army transport "Warren" came in, and as she was proceeding to her berth struck the "Teau" astern on the port side about eight feet from the midship line, breaking the taff rail angle bar, and four bulwark plates. The damage did not affect the seaworthiness of the ship, and she returned to Hongkong on schedule time. The collision was due to the congested state of Manila harbour at the time.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai January 12th said:—An ex-censor who is manager of a local (Chinese) bank has been arrested for having caused pamphlets to be distributed inciting a boycott of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., Ltd. in connection with the loan for the construction of the Cheuking railway. The accused will be charged to-morrow with endangering order in the settlement. The Peking authorities have ordered the arrest of four prominent Chinese residents, including the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for countenancing and refraining from taking any steps to stop the agitation. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce has now issued a warning against the boycott, and it is expected that these measures will put a stop to the movement.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Shanghai January 13th said:—The Chinese bank manager charged with inciting to riot at Shanghai has been handed over to the Mixed Court. The Taotai of the latter has issued a proclamation in stringent terms prohibiting the boycott. The popular feeling seems to be very strong, but the incident is expected to close without any serious outcome. The native press, which has hitherto supported the idea of the boycott, has now agreed to refrain from comment. The actions so far of the Peking and local officials have been exemplary.

We are officially authorized to state that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £2 per share of the old issue a pro rata dividend, or £1 10s. per share of the new issue; add to the Silver Reserve Fund \$500,000 and carry forward about \$2,000,000. In addition to the above the amount received as premium on the new shares has been dealt with as follows:—1. To the purchase of Consols of sufficient nominal value to increase at \$2 the Sterling Reserve Fund by £50,000 which fund will then stand at £1,500,000;—2. To the transfer to the Silver Reserve Fund of the balance of \$1,200,000.

The price to be paid for the Sanyo Railway, taken over by the Japanese Government as part of the nationalisation scheme, has now been agreed upon. The value of the railway line is fixed at ¥78,849,899, for which bonds are to be issued to the amount of ¥75,072,150. Accessory business—ferry boats, hotel, &c.—is valued at ¥1,567,447, for which bonds will be issued to the amount of ¥1,567,050. There is thus a difference of ¥3,777,744 between the price paid and the bonds issued, due, we understand, to the transfer to the Government of a loan originally issued by the company. The paid-up capital of the company was ¥34,200,000, against which the shareholders receive bonds to a total value of ¥75,072,150, bearing interest at 5 per cent.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st December, 1907, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

BANK.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
	\$	\$
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China ..	3,274,827	2,500,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 13,296,3	10,000,000	
National Bank of China, Limited, ...	341,736	150,000
Total, ...	\$16,916,166	12,650,000

Nearly three years ago Mr. E. S. Little of Shanghai sent a collection of local seeds to the United States Department of Agriculture. Quite recently he received a communication from Mr. David Fairchild, Agricultural Explorer in charge of Foreign Explorations for the Department, stating that three examples of soybeans that had been forwarded were quite new to America, and were of unusual interest. One variety has been named the "Little" soybean, in honour of the donor, and it is stated that they are large-sized and late, and compare favourably with the very best as forage. The crop of these beans is increasing in importance for forage in the South, and the Department is now making an exhaustive search to discover the best varieties.

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE."

(Daily Press, January 11th.)

We wish to join issue with our correspondent, "An Unscientific Christian," and we too desire to be absolved from the suspicion of mere idle sneers. As "Christian Science" seems now to be making a bid for public sympathy and support in Hongkong, and we honestly believe it to be an intellectually foolish cult, and likely to cause grievous bodily harm to the young and thoughtless who come under its influence, our plain duty is to say what we have to say, while there is time and opportunity. In answer to our enquiries, we have been given to understand that there will be no opportunity for questions and debate at the public meeting, so perhaps if we indicate the attitude of the general public toward the question, the lecturer may be prompted to deal with it on as popular lines as he can, stating his propositions so that all can clearly grasp them, and not obscuring such plain issues as those typical ones raised by our correspondent by juggling with the English language in the pseudo-metaphysical phrases some people seem so fond of. "Mesopotamia" was a blessed word to our old woman, but it has no esoteric significance for the general public. Of course there are many sides to "Christian Science," but the aspect of it that chiefly interests outsiders is its claims with regard to health and disease and pain. It is in this relation that we dread its possible influence, when we say it seems "likely to cause grievous bodily harm." We are thinking of the children and childish dependants of "Christian Scientists," their physical pains, and the physical injury that threatens them if material medical precautions and remedies are denied them. We take it that auto-hypnotism, the power of auto-suggestion, is older than "Christian Science," and we are not denying the power in that way of what we call the Mind. Possibly "Christian Science" so called, or auto-hypnotism, does persuade a faithful patient that he or she is not suffering pain. Thus a man with a cancer may derive temporary ease, or even the pains of child birth be subjectively assuaged; but the material cancer grows, and the material child demands material attention. Do "Christian Scientists," as we are informed, deprecate the use of the surgeon's knife in the former case? If they do, can we be expected to regard their responsibility lightly? We have heard of "Christian Scientist" parents being indicted for manslaughter due to neglecting the material needs of their offspring, and we do not welcome the prospect of such cases occurring in this Colony. It has been whispered to us that to satisfy the law a medical man has been called in, and that to satisfy the "Christian Science" conscience his prescription was ignored. Such monstrous possibilities alarm us. At the risk of appearing intolerant and lacking in reverence for the honest beliefs of honest people, we must warn the public against shutting its eyes to such possibilities. Perhaps the lecturer who is coming will be advised, as we hope he will, to deal with these and similar fears, to answer them in categorical or easily understood terms. The most priceless thing the British Government has given to us is liberty of conscience, and we would be the last to infringe on that impeccable right, but in the interest of the public weal there have to be limits to its translation into conduct. We cannot allow the parental "conscience" to sacrifice the physical well-being of the rising generation. What MILL calls "self-regarding conduct" need not be

interfered with by society (although we do interfere in some instances, as of suicide); but if "Christian Scientists" and "Peculiar People" neglect the material needs of those dependant upon them, who are too young to judge for themselves, Society is bound to intervene, drastically and in earnest. We know that such "Christian Scientists" as are in Hongkong will not resent these comments, which are at least as sincere as their own teachings. True Truth has nothing to fear from any attacks whatsoever, and if it be not the Truth, its believers should be thankful for every chance of being undeceived. As for the resentment of those people who embrace any faith of any kind, in the manner of the traditional ostrich burying its head in the sand, and who are not prepared for all honest enquiry or criticism concerning their position, we do not attach any importance to it at all. It invariably indicates want of confidence in their own beliefs, and stamps them at once as people for whom there is no possible intellectual hope. The lively conviction challenges investigation, and meets it ingenuously, not ingeniously. Such, we hope, will be forthcoming in the present case.

PARTY POLITICS.

(Daily Press, January 13th.)

That the whole is not always greater than its part has been conspicuously exhibited in the existence of the present administration in England. The "Cabinet of all the talent" has in fact, as conspicuously broken down as have the individual talents come to the front. One thing, notwithstanding, the administration has pretty well demonstrated to the people at large and that is that the affairs of the Empire are too large and important to be administered *a priori* on merely political lines cut out beforehand according to pattern; and that each department needs to be headed by an administrator thoroughly trained to business, and capable of applying business principles to the clearing up of the complicated questions, which in a machine covering so great a superficies as the British Empire, must arise from day to day. Fortunately the nominal head of the Cabinet had but little to say to the appointment of the individual members, most of whom fell into their places as a mere matter of course quite irrespective of their collegiate political proclivities, and so found themselves comparatively untrammelled in the discharge of the special business of their offices. Notoriously was this the case with Sir EDWARD GREY as head of the Foreign Office. Although as a matter of course every item of his administration had not met the entire approval of every section in the Empire, which could naturally be an impossibility, Sir EDWARD GREY has certainly commended himself to the country at large as a man of imperial views, whose policy has commended itself not merely to his own country, but to a far more difficult task—to those foreign countries with whom we are in alliance, or whose opinions we hold in respect. As a man of business who has studied affairs in the control of one of our most important railways, he has wisely eschewed mixing himself up as far as possible in things outside his own functions, and won in consequence the confidence of even those opposed to him on political grounds. Very much the same may be said of Mr. HALDANE. Personally associated with the Army, he has been able to enter into the question of its reform without political bias, and comprehending this, and recognising his singleness of purpose the Unionist party, so far from obstructing, have lent him

valuable aid. Mr. MORLEY, throwing on one side the often sentimental and merely scholastic comments of an historian and literary man, has shown, when entrusted with a difficult executive office, courage to act on his convictions and has been personally largely responsible for a much improved state of affairs in India. Even Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, who entered the Government with apparently the most dangerous views on domestic affairs, has found, when he gave himself to the business of his office, not only that he could from previous business capacity turn his knowledge to the service of his country, but that his fellow subjects regardless of class or politics have not hesitated to acknowledge what he has done. On the other hand collectively the administration has had the good sense to restrain the vagaries of such incapables as Lord ELGIN and his nominal lieutenant, but apparently inspirer, Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, who in the management of so important a department as the Colonial Office have contrived to get at cross purposes with every one, without exception, of the larger and more important colonies. The undoubted result of all this is that, now that the PREMIER's irresponsible chin-wagging has at least temporarily ceased, the country is beginning to breathe with a little more confidence that affairs may yet be restored to their normal condition. Noteworthy in this respect is the altogether different aspect in which the defence of the country now stands from that of a short two years, or even twelve months ago. With a foolhardiness, engendered perhaps from want of official experience the Government, puffed up with patriotic notions as to the possibility of its changing the fundamental principles that underlie human conduct, came into office prophesying a return of an imaginary golden age—should the British nation only dismiss its army and navy, and submit all its little differences to the arbitration of its neighbours. Russia, *avant l'heure*, had called together a Congress, euphemistically called a "Peace Congress," and the PRIME MINISTER, and perhaps one or two of his friends, had been captured by the clapnet. Momentarily the cry suited the political situation at home. The party had gone into office on an outcry of reduction, and so it had been mainly responsible for increasing expenditure in all the other departments, there was only the Army and Navy to fall back on. The wicked Unionists had by holding out threats to the other nations of Europe been directly responsible for a condition of affairs that rendered the keeping up of a navy and army necessary. They would go as far as lovers of peace to the Peace Congress; and when Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN announced to the Congress that he, Sir HENRY, was at once going to reduce the Army and Navy, which the wicked Unionists had kept up as a menace to the Peace of Europe, the whole of the world were represented would not fail to immediately accept the magnanimous offer, and at once dismiss its bloated armaments; for now that England and Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN were determined on peace, there was no further need for warlike preparations. Fortunately some of the PRIME MINISTER's advisers were wise enough to see the absurdity of the position, and warned their colleague of the danger, but enough had been published to excite the suspicions of the other Powers that under a profession of peace the British minister kept concealed a deep-laid scheme for British aggrandisement. Other things had arisen to cause a feeling of uneasiness, so that on the whole the Congress did very little useful work, and some of the few

useful measures discussed were in the end discarded owing to this general feeling of incertitude. Whatever had been the general feelings of the Cabinet at the beginning, the non-success of the proposed peace measures convinced not only the more capable members of the Cabinet, but the country at large, that, however charming these proposed reductions looked on paper, Europe was by no means ripe for putting them in practice, and that in the meanwhile it would not do for England to permit her influence to be set at naught owing to want of preparation. It was therefore with considerable feelings of satisfaction that Sir EDWARD GREY was heard to announce that while he saw no reason for interference or remonstrance at the growing desire in Germany to increase her navy, it yet would be necessary for England to maintain her present numerical superiority. Following on the same lines, Mr. HALDANE has announced his view that for the future it will be advisable that the home army shall not be permitted to drop below three hundred thousand trained men. Now all these are directly at variance with the declaration made by the Government on entering on office. That the extraordinary majority by which the Government succeeded to office was, at best, but a chance vote where the majority failed to comprehend the grave subjects at issue, could not be more plainly shown than by the alacrity with which these announcements have been received is self evident. The country has almost by the skin of its teeth escaped a grave danger, and the thanks of the country are due to those men who in the hour of need came to the front; but will they be strong enough to hold their own against the combinations now turned against them? The question is a serious one, and after the result of the last election in showing how the state may be cajoled in the future by a false catchword, it is one that all serious men must for the future bear in mind. England cannot afford to permit itself to be turned into a mere party bear garden to the neglect of all useful work.

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE" AGAIN.

(Daily Press, January 14th.)

There is now scarcely one European in Hongkong who cannot claim a "Christian Scientist" as a friend or acquaintance, and we have sufficient evidence that the public is now really interested in the movement. This warrants a return to the subject, which, moreover, has been prompted by an interview with two local leading exponents of the cult. They came, not to complain, but to reason with us, and we regret to say that we met the same difficulty mentioned by our original correspondent. They claimed logical grounds for what we had just described as their intellectual folly, but had to admit that their position was difficult to express in terms of logic, with the crystalline clarity colloquially desiderated by our correspondent, when he asked for definitions in plain English. We withdrew nothing of what we said before. The interview, and the literature that was left with us, so far only confirms our repugnance to the growing cult. One of the two gentlemen stated that "Christian Science" positively cures actual organic diseases; the other stated that it proves the unreality of such ills, and quoted Mrs. Eddy's saying that "if you admit the presence and possibility of disease, you cannot cure it." These apparently contradictory statements were made each in the presence of the other, and they admitted they could not reconcile them

except to someone "initiated." It was a friendly interview, so we did not like to say what we thought, that in such a case to be "initiated" must be tantamount to being "bamboozled." The most lucid presentation of the "Christian Science" position given to us was this: a mother ("Christian Science") watching her child (the uninitiated) in its cot, sees it manifesting the symptoms of nightmare terror. To the dreaming child, the place is peopled with horrid creatures. The mother gently awakes it, shows it that those horrid creatures do not exist save in its perverted imagination; that the grinning dragon is merely a wardrobe, the incubus merely a crumpled blanket, its real companion a loving mother. On the strength of this pretty analogy, the exponent claimed, so far as we could understand him, to be showing logical reason for the faith within him. We did not argue, as there was time only to learn, and we really desired to get correctly the point of view that they held. Otherwise, we might have taken up their point of the objective unreality of disease and evil in this way: observe the same mother and the same child in another situation. The objectively real mother beholds from a real window her real child in a real yard. Approaching the admittedly real child is a real dog, which we, not being "Christian Scientists," claim is just as objectively actual and real, and likely to give the child real hydrophobia. As a "Christian Scientist" what does the mother do? Tell the child that the peril is imaginary, like its previous nightmare, or call a real father with a real gun to shoot the real dog and really save the child? Should these lines be seen by the gentleman who instructed us, we suggest that this is a question they might publicly answer without any of the disadvantages we warned them against, always providing, of course, that there is an answer expressible in logical terms to dispose of the difficulty in favour of "Christian Science." On the point raised by us of the menace to public safety, both gentlemen claimed that "Christian Scientists" were not inimical to doctors, but they did not believe in their materia medica; that "Christian Scientists" who did call in doctors to their children did so against their conscience "to satisfy the law," but they claimed that they would "as a rule" loyally obey the doctor's orders. They could not, however, deny the possibility that some might ignore the doctor's prescriptions, so we could not withdraw our serious suggestion that on this ground alone "Christian Science" is a menace to society. Logically, of course, if the doctors are working on wrong lines, and if "Christian Science" alone has the whole truth, as they maintain, it is no menace, but a promise of salvation; but then we take it the majority and the law believe still in real disease and to some extent in material medicine. This brings us back to the apparent inconsistency of "Christian Science" views of mind and matter. We find the literature stipulated to us as inconsistent as the two exponents who called on us; and we think we can, in a few words, and with a simple analogy as good as theirs of the mother and sleeping child, expose the misunderstanding. The official literature is full of "Mesopotamian" phrases like "to human sense" (what other sense is there? what else can a "Christian Scientist" claim?) "sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness" (what other consciousness can a human being boast?) and so on. Honestly endeavouring to grasp their point of view, we pondered the last quoted saying, and decided that it meant that a Christian

Scientist's disease has lost its subjective reality for the believing patient, inasmuch as he has persuaded himself it has left him, that it no longer exists, but it objectively persists, it is really there, but hurts less or not at all because the patient won't believe in it. Is that fair? If we have not misrepresented it, it is nonsense, intellectually foolish. It is difficult, however, to pin them down, for they jump from one position to another, both mutually antipathetic, and juggle with unanalysable phrases just as they ignore premises. This, from the official organ of the society, is plain enough: "Christian Science shows us the unreality of sin and disease . . . as revealed by Christian Science, the unreality of matter is also seen, that it came from nothing. 'Oh, logical science!' is nothing, and will return to its original nothingness . . . shows the unreality of death, that man's real self is eternal, immortal." Could anything be plainer? Yet, in that case, why so much literature to prove that the many "cures" were cases of real organic disease, admitted physical wrecks, "given up" by doctors? Is that consistent? We must seize upon this point, and ask at once why, if disease is unreal, and man's real self immortal, Christian-Science healers should bother about curing unreal disease, and taking real money for so doing? The startling reply was made (to a similar question) that these unreal pains do matter; that a physical ache has a deteriorating effect upon the immortal substance. If that be authoritative, it is plain that Christian Scientists believe in duality as much as we do. It shows that mind influences matter, and matter influences mind, and that the Christian Scientists are merely guilty of over-emphasising half the truth. Here appropriately comes in the promised analogy. Matter and mind together represent a married couple. The husband is (let us say) matter, and the wife is mind. The married pair is an objective reality, an entity of extension. Christian scientists seem to be inclined to take a "suffragette" view of the pair—mind (the wife) is the "real self" of the pair, and matter (the husband) is not real enough to matter much, though his reality is occasionally admitted, as on "pay day" for instance [e.g. The diseases are very real to prove the cures; but only "seeming" and used to effect the cures.] Christian Science divorces the man and wife, so to speak, and then denies the existence of the couple, the pair. There never was, they argue, more than one "real self," the woman (or spirit). The man was illusion. We fancy we have hereon fairly defined the Christian Science position, and we claim again that it is nonsense, intellectually or logically infeasible, and in so far as it promises to "bamboozle" violent-minded folk into foolish conduct in the matter of disease and health, we denounce it as dangerous. At the same time we propose to bat no persecution: our readers shall have the benefit of hearing both sides, if both sides care to argue. We are assured that the promised lecturer will endeavour to be lucid, although he will not invite question or debate, and his attention is going to be called to our presentation of the difficulties of the subject as they occur to the general public. It will be noted, we hope, that we have avoided purely religious issues, and kept only to the material issue that concerns us all, the question of health and disease.

The total assets of the Colony on October 31st amounted to \$1,023,130.6; the liabilities were \$34,562.57. The balance of assets over liabilities is consequently \$1,518,780.49.

A LOCAL MATTER.

(Daily Press, January 15th).

It is in the nature of things that good work should go apparently unnoticed, and occasional slips or alleged slips, be specially noted. His Worship Mr. HAZELAND makes an excellent magistrate, and the general public can have a very inadequate idea of the arduous nature of his daily task, hearing hundreds of tedious cases mainly concerned with the petty side of human nature, its bad temper, careless lapses from the straight path, and general meanness towards its fellows. If HOMER could nod at times, the best of magistrates may surely overlook the importance of some not patently direct issue of one of the many cases coming in his daily list. The duty of a censor is rarely pleasant, and it is only the natural hatred of injustice, and concern for public safety, that prompts this dragging into light of two local police court cases. We can admit at once that our journalistic confrère LABOUCHERE of *Truth* would have difficulty in filling his famous pillory if his field were restricted to the courts of this Colony, but the very rarity of error only makes it appear the more striking. As regards the police side of the question, we should also hasten to remind ourselves that their lot is not a happy one when dealing with such perseveringly irritating people as ricksha and chair coolies, and much previous worry in making them observe the regulation against loitering in front of busy premises doubtless contributed to the error of judgment attributed to the *lukong* whose conduct is described in to-day's article headed "Lukongs and chair coolies." We have no information beyond that appearing in type, and it may be that Mr. HAZELAND considered much more. The story is that a private chair-coolie who had just put down his mistress at a shop door, and was waiting for her return, was violently and persistently assaulted by a Chinese policeman, and, with his partner, was (as it appears) subsequently summoned by that officer for assault! On the evidence, His Worship discharged the defendants. Possibly if the coolie had taken out a summons against the *lukong*, His Worship might have punished the latter; but our point is this. Ought he in the circumstances to wait for such a preliminary, seeing that the offender is a public servant in his own department whose conduct, according to the evidence, was most improper. It is highly important to the public that the men charged with the duty of maintaining the order of our streets should not themselves be disorderly, and we regret to record our conviction that the force seems in this respect to be getting out of hand. The Chinese policemen have not rid themselves yet of their typically Chinese ideas of procedure, and it is our experience that a low-class Chinaman in any sort of uniform is the most contemptible creature the Empire produces. It seems to be thoroughly demoralising to him to be "clothed in a little brief authority." Our observation of the Indian police does not compel much greater respect for them, and it may be remembered that not long ago we published a complaint of what seemed exceedingly inconsiderate and unnecessarily provocative conduct by a European policeman. This was a case somewhat similar to the one mentioned in Monday's issue, also tried by Mr. HAZELAND, who mulcted an unfortunate ricksha coolie in the (to him) large sum of three dollars for having failed to avoid with his wheel the obstructive foot of another *lukong*. One cannot help wondering how a policeman's foot, in spite of its size, came to be thus run over.

The worst congestion of traffic ever seen in Hongkong scarcely could satisfy us that he could not, had he wished, have withrawn it in time, and had we been sitting by Mr. HAZELAND's side, we should have enquired closely into the probability of contributory negligence. Here was a policeman walking or standing on the street, and there was a ricksha approaching him. Always providing he was not wrapt in dreams—and one may often observe a rare expression on the constabular countenance—we picture him looking "through" the advancing vehicle, with that lordly, supercilious air that seems to say: What is a mere ricksha, coolie drawn, that a gentleman wearing the King's uniform need deviate a hair's-breadth from his stately path? Was he, perchance—and here the local *Zeitgeist* acts as prompter—one of those who regard even a ricksha as "objectively unread"? If so, imagine the swift and painful discovery when his poor ears were compressed, his startled yelp, his oburgations, and the *dis majesté* feeling with which he must have hurried the shame-stricken coolie before Mr. HAZELAND, to get his three dollars compensation. Come to think of it, our question "Is this justice?" holds good either way. Three dollars were not enough if the coolie was to blame. There was the question of "moral and intellectual" damage, as well as of mere blacking. We certainly do not favour a squad of pigskin-toed policemen; the proper way to walk is with the toes turned outwards a little, but at three dollars a time, we fear the *lukongs* will go in for spoiling the proper way by exaggerating it, unless His Worship saves the situation by letting them understand that it is not to be a fixed tariff.

TROUT HATCHERY AT HONGKONG

(Daily Press, 16th January)

Hongkong has a large number of devoted disciples of the revered Mr. L. WALTON, though our opportunities for demonstration locally are very much restricted. Most of us who in other parts of the world have whipped lakes and streams with the dry fly, or angled in ponds and canals with less artistic tackle, have long been a Sir FREDERICK LUGARD's advent taken time to investigate the possibilities of all the likely waters in the Colony. Emptying into Tide Cove and Tolo Harbour, for instance, are several streams that looked "likely" for Stewart-tackle or a light ten-foot rod with tail-fly and a close-by dropper, but alas! though fish of sorts could be seen at times, there was nothing that would rise. Rumours that a reservoir out Quarry Bay way contained trout promising the old thrills caused a fruitless pilgrimage, and in the end we were all forced to be content with the local handlines and the scarce and shy salt-water fish. Yet none of us appears to have thought of doing what His Excellency the Governor now proposes, namely, to breed trout and stock some of our local waters. To be sure, the scheme as unfolded in the communication with which the Hon. Colonial Secretary favoured us yesterday says nothing beyond stocking the reservoirs; but with that beginning, it is not a far vision if we see, in the future, the beautiful mountain streams in the New Territory teeming with game fish, "watchers" or keepers patrolling them to prevent poaching, and a Fishery Board and an Angling Association to manage affairs, and to pay for the necessary rearing and watching. The Government, as practically the sole riparian owner, would be represented on the Board,

and contribute, perhaps, to the expense, which would mainly be borne, however, by the anglers who would take out licences to fish with rod and line in preserved waters. We have to blush all the more for leaving the idea to come from a newcomer, because some of us, it is certain, are familiar with the comparatively simple though expensive method of hatching and breeding for stocking purposes. That was a matter, however, left to the Fishery Board and its staff, and beyond visiting now and then the graduated row of shallow troughs, with fresh water slowly but constantly flowing from one to another, in as much sunshine as possible, and looking at the various stages of development, and perhaps asking the head keeper as to the progress of the next batch to be released, it is possible that very few of us learned enough of the business to make it worth while accepting the invitation to visit the Colonial Secretary's office. We did get to understand that it was cheaper to stock with immature fish than "*ab ovo*." A letter to the Clerk of a Fishery Board at Home would probably elicit more practical information than is to be found in the Colony, although there may be found amongst our number some who have perhaps worked on a riparian hatcheries committee. So far as we remember, it is a chancey business in which an ounce of practical experience is worth all the books ever written on the subject, and we hope the Governor may find some such adviser. We also hope that the experimental consignment of ova from Canada will arrive in condition, and repay the trouble spent on it. We were told, by the way, not long ago, that the Water Authority objected to the presence of fish in the reservoirs, and that from one of the reservoirs on the Peak the employees were instructed to remove a quantity of "fine fish," species not stated. There is, of course, no hygienic reason why fish should not be permitted in water meant for public consumption; quite the contrary; and we suppose this is now understood. We compliment His Excellency on his enterprise, and wish it all success. So with many who are not rodsters, for from a gustable point of view, our dining tables seem to be in a way to be materially enriched.

THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS.

(Daily Press, January 17th).

We dealt long ago with the patent anomaly of Japanese anti-gambling laws and the official lotteries in form, and except that in Japan there now seems to be an enhanced activity against gambling, nothing has occurred to necessitate a return to the subject. One of our contemporaries yesterday undertook to discuss the suggestion of a heading used by a Kobo paper, "Morality limited by geography," and unfortunately at the very outset betrayed its own neglect of the study of ethical philosophy by the remark that "this aspect of morality appeals to us as something new." Apart altogether from the fact that there is nothing new under the sun, not even the newest of new cults or fads, we may mention that the geographical aspect of morality has been a repeated favourite illustration of our own in this column, and has done duty on many occasions in our discussions of Far Eastern matters. The question of the use of the stocks at Hongkong may be instanced, as a concrete example of something the employment of which is deemed politically moral here and immoral in Britain; and it may well be that the Japanese (who are diligent students of ethics) see some distinction between gambling in Japan and the same

thing in their colony of Formosa. British rule in India differs somewhat with British rule in Canada, Australia, and South Africa, and what is morally right in one place is regarded as inexpedient, not necessarily immoral, in another. But we have not quoted our contemporary in a manner to do it full justice. It says "this aspect of morality [as qualified by geographical limitations] appeals to us as something new, *since morality is properly a question of individual belief*." Properly, or ideally, morality ought to be a matter of immutable law, as many good people fondly but vainly endeavour to have it regarded. Their thesis is that such and such conduct is everywhere and always wrong; this and that conduct universally and eternally right. If our contemporary had sided with the universalists, it might fittingly have higgled over the geographical limitations of morality, but its naive claim that morality is a question of individual belief, and consequently (individuals and beliefs being scattered over wide geographical areas) *not territorially limited*, "appeals to us as something new" in philosophical argument. If morality be not, as we supposed, largely a matter of mutable social convention, with both geographical and historical limitations and modifications, but (as our contemporary cheerfully asserts) "a question of individual belief" (every man a law to himself, if words mean anything) how can this new professor of ethics go on consistently to claim that "it must be apparent that crime committed by an individual, or a Government, is criminal wherever committed"? It is quite wrong, of course. The point of view affects morality like most other things. Possibly a definition offhand may lead us into error, but we should say that nothing is immoral that causes no deterioration of character. We could, for instance, pass a sincere anarchist as a moral man. Obviously, immorality must be conscious, wilful—a deliberate violation of an accepted code of conduct. Matricide in Hongkong is immoral, even more so among the Chinese than among Europeans. In the case of the Inuits of the Arctic circle, it is a social obligation at certain seasons, a recognised moral duty to the community. A woman no longer capable of bearing children, or a man no longer capable of hunting, merely "cumbers the ground," and they are enemies of the race at every mouthful of food they eat. So much for this "new" geographical aspect of morality. The King (for which nowadays read "Government") can do no wrong, though he or it may change its policy if the newspapers and people make a sufficiently alarming fuss. We are not concerned with the Japanese and Formosan Governments' apparently opposite views now, and merely refer to our contemporary's extraordinary philosophical divagations to illustrate the amazing indifference, obtrusively apparent during recent days, to the value and meaning of words and phrases. Our English language has grown unwieldy through the constantly recurring necessity of additions required to express fine shades of meaning. It is a pitiful commentary on the value of so many years of free, compulsory, and popular education that we should find so many "educated" people mouthing phrases in apparently complete disregard of the meaning, the limited significance, those words are capable of conveying. "Real" means "real," and "unreal" means "unreal." No pseudo-metaphysical jargon can alter that. We are prepared now, however to admit that sometimes people are more misled than criminally careless. There are

words in daily use that do not mean what they are understood to mean, mainly because they cannot. Some meanings are impossible. A word like "eternity," for instance, signifies only an immeasurable time; the human brain won't hold a concept of any more, unless it resorts to the figure of a circle (as the Buddhists do) and then we cannot possibly conceive of a circle without an outer environment. When the finite mind talks of infinity, it must abandon all pretensions to logic. It becomes as lucid as the idiomatic "what d'ye callen" of London or the "je ne sais quoi" of Paris.

A chance heard conversation on the Kowloon Ferry the other night suggested to us a sample that is not obscured by too much subtlety. Take the word "loyalty," on which many people pride themselves. One would think to hear people talk that loyalty is a virtue, whereas, under analysis, it betrays itself as a sheer insult. The person who claims to be loyal, either to country, ruler, faith, or spouse, implies effort. Imagine a man tactless enough to assure the queen of his heart that he was loyal to her. She could fairly claim, *prima facie*, that conscious loyalty indicated disloyal inclinations overcome, that is to say, inadequate affection to begin with. To be loyal to a ruler one has no respect for, or to a faith one begins to doubt, is to be untrue to one's self, disloyal to truth. Conscious loyalty implies dubious devotion; unconscious loyalty needs a better word—it is, in fact, undistracted devotion. So much for words and phrases. The world reads too much and thinks too little. Worse still, it writes and talks more than it thinks. When it begins to digest ideas more, and uses words more carefully, only to express ideas, it will be less open to swallow absurdities. A gifted confidant, the late Mr. Quilter, once complained that there is an unfair proportion of the Un-Ideed, who make rules for all the world and punish their infraction. He meant ideas, *hien entendu*, not mystical dreams, so it will be seen that our little excursus is less academic than it seems; that it has, in short, some practical bearing.

PATRIOTIC MOTIVES.

(Daily Press, January 18th.)

Our two long telegrams from Shanghai on the 12th and 13th instant told us of the latest phase of the "China for the Chinese" movement, wherein a Chinese banker tried to incite a boycott against the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the firm of Jardine Matheson. We have been postponing discussion of the incident in the hope of more ample details, but in the absence of other unbacked political subjects, and being afraid of wearying some of our readers by too many abstract discussions in which many of them have never affected to take an interest, we dare not wait any longer. There are readers who, unfamiliar with the difficulty indicated in the professionally adopted phrase, "making bricks without straw," expect the Colony and its great neighbour to afford a constant and sufficient supply of subjects for the pragmatical discussions they prefer. (We use the word pragmatical in its literal sense.) Such practical and plain issues are by no means numerous, and certainly not sufficient to enable a newspaper making six appearances each week to gratify (even if it so desired) this one business-like section of its patrons. So much by way of confidential preamble.

As a political issue demanding vehement advocacy of anything either one way or another, it is gratifying to note that even

the sensational Shanghai incident is dead. Our correspondent assured us in his later message that the matter was regarded as practically closed, that the native Press was being kept well in hand, and that the Chinese official attitude in the premises was correct and exemplary. So nothing remains but the punishment of the misguided enterpriser responsible for the whole thing, and this we expect to hear in a day or two was also exemplary.

We have already coupled with the incident the tiresome but inevitable phrase, "China for the Chinese," and this suggests the idea that there might conceivably be something to say on behalf of the culprit's patriotism. Doubtless a good deal will be said on that score. We have very little scruple in suggesting that the patriotism of one banker urging a boycott against a firm in the same line of business is bound to be met with considerable suspicion. There is a cant saying that one should not impute motives, but if, as the law always does, one looks for them, and finds them, or if the motive obtrudes itself in a manner to make search unnecessary, why not? The curious thing is, (and again we find this week's train of thought accommodated) that it is only the imputation of bad motives that convention kicks against. We may impute all the good motives we like, and it will be accounted to us for righteousness. Thus a patriot's excesses are excused on the ground of their worthy motive, or (we apologise for the apparent obsession) a "Christian Scientist's" bungling with sick people is pardoned on the score of the pure, religious motives and mainspring of his or her meddling. An ordinary charlatan who kills a patient is punished; a religious one is forgiven. In our purely academic view of the anarchist, in yesterday's comments, we did the same thing, recognising his motivational morality. But in practical affairs, the moral motive of the anarchist's crime does not save him, and in the case of the rascal at Shanghai (even if his patriotism be admitted) it is fair to hope that he will receive the salutary treatment he deserves, always supposing (as seems fairly certain) that his responsibility is proved. He will then be regarded as a "martyr," and one more error will have had its bolster.

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE.

SCHOOL SPEECH DAY.

There was a large attendance in the prettily decorated matchless at St. Stephen's College on Jan. 17th, when His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard presided at the annual distribution of prizes. Included in the number were his Lordship Bishop Landor, Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., the Ven. Archdeacon Banister, Rev. and Mrs. Pearce, Mr. W. D. Bairdwood, Mr. and Mrs. G. Piercy, Dr. Saunders, Rev. J. H. Francis, Rev. Mr. F. T. Johnson and Rev. Mr. A. D. Stewart. The latter gentleman opened with prayer, and then the Archdeacon read the report as follows:—Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome Your Excellency and Lady Lugard among us to day; for your presence, Sir, is not only an honour but a real incentive to us all; we are not unmindful of the many calls on your time and are glad that matters educational in the Colony have your pronounced and active sympathy of which your presence with us to day is a further evidence. Our Warden (the Rev. E. J. Barnett) went to England last Midsummer on account of the very unsatisfactory state of Mrs. Barnett's health; latest advices show a gradual improvement but convalescence has not been thoroughly enough established for Mr. Barnett to be quite sure of the date of his departure for Hongkong. During his absence, Sir, I have endeavoured, in

same degree to fulfil the duties appertaining to the position of Acting Warden, while the Rev. A. I. Stewart, M.A., of St. Paul's College has given considerable time and help to the work of this institution, and arrangements have been made by which we expect these temporary additions to the staff to continue till the warden's return. The attendance throughout the year has been remarkably good, no less than 151 names on the school roll for 1907; almost invariably it has only been the urgency of pressing matters which has debarred students from being present; and the keenness for acquiring information has been shown not only in class, but in out-of-school time as well, many of the boys having made it their business to be present at any extra demonstrations. The continuation of the science classes has been entirely successful; the highest forms have received lessons in Physics and Chemistry and have acquired a working knowledge of many of the principles of these sciences, especially electricity and magnetism, and we expect in the coming year, to be far enough advanced to present these subjects for the Oxford Local Examinations. Science works in the junior forms has not been on laboratory lines, as in the most advanced stage; special interest has been taken in agricultural science with the expectation that later developments will produce an intelligent interest in botany and the growth of plants. It has been decided to give more time to the teaching of English in the junior forms; senior boys, who have spent considerable time with us, usually have a fair knowledge of the language, as has been abundantly evidenced by the results in English in the Oxford Local; but to those who have not had much practice in the language, such subjects as word-building, letterwriting, and English composition or essay, present very numerous pitfalls; we look to a further assistance on English work in the junior forms, to save much valuable time of those doing higher work; for deficiency in correct English involves delay in English Authors, also in Mathematics and Science work. The development of the physical side has had its due share of attention this year, as well as a very gratifying measure of success; our chief game has been cricket, and of the eight matches played, we have won seven, beating each school whom we could persuade to accept our challenge; we lost the first match to the Y. M. C. A., but won on the return. During the summer months the launch regularly carried a large number to the favoured spots for swimming, and the majority of the bathers have now learned the necessary art. Football and tennis have both had followers, the tennis tournament having resulted in a win for the form IV representatives. The College Union came into existence nearly 18 months ago for the purpose of binding together and strengthening those who desired to know more than they can learn in school hours, of the teaching and life of Jesus Christ, the Asiatic Who spoke with authority on the subject which has a more general interest for men than any other, and it has proved a strong factor in the all-round development of the school. In addition to the gatherings of the Union we have been particularly fortunate in having the opportunity from time to time of hearing addresses and receiving instruction from several men who hold leading positions among the teachers and students of the day, including Dr. Karl Fries, the Chairman of the world's student Christian Federation, G. S. Eddy, Esq., the leader in India of student Volunteer work, J. H. R. y, Esq., a prominent secretary of Y. M. C. A. work in America, Rev. J. M. Farquhar M.A., of Calcutta, Rev. D. Burgess, well known in India for his almost unique skill in the organisation of Sunday Schools, Frank Renwood, Esq. M.A., a leader of students in Oxford, Prof. Harlin P. Beach, the first professor of missions appointed in the justly famed Yale University, the Bishop of South Tokyo. These gentlemen have spoken on such subjects as:—The Secret of Success, Temptation, A country's Needs, Character, Sacrifice. In the VI form, Chau Kwan Lam easily maintains his last year's position as Dux of the School, though Fung Man Sai has obtained premier position in three groups of subject. The average result has been the highest yet secured in the VI, which is mainly due to the fact that senior boys, graduating through the

school, have a longer term in which to improve their English. The V form which includes 18 boys is numerically stronger than it has been before, and during the last half year its work has been raised to a much higher standard, so as to constitute it the form for the junior Oxford Candidates instead of for the preliminary. The boys have on the whole very satisfactorily responded to this effort. The work of the IV form has been very satisfactory, good work being done on all subjects. In this form as in the fifth, the standard has been raised, and this form will henceforth work up to the standard of the Oxford Preliminary Examination.

Special mention must be made of the Dux who in the final examinations secured an average of over 90 per cent. In the III form Luk In Cheung is well ahead of his competitors with an average of 87. Lim Yuen tied with the Dux in mathematics, while the Chinese work in this form has been by far its strongest branch of work. In the II form the position of Dux has been taken by Lai Haw Yeung, with an average of 74. Lai Haw Cuim coming second, with 68, closely followed by Cheng Man Sam 67. Yuen Fu Yu has also done good work though but a short time in the class. The work of the first form on the whole has been fairly satisfactory. As all of them were beginners when they first came, they have worked hard in the first two terms, and towards the end of the year they made considerable headway though a special amount of time has been spent in revision of ground work.

The chief scholastic success of the year has been in the Oxford Local Examination. Of the 14 candidates recommended by the school, 13 succeeded in passing the examination. Four passed the senior, six the junior and three the preliminary, while the results work out as follows: Religious Knowledge 85 per cent; Algebra 91; Geometry 64; Arithmetic (both elementary and higher) 10; English 64; Geography 75; Book-keeping 66. We have now two students who have succeeded in gaining the A. A. distinction. Two prizes known as the Wei On memorial prizes have been presented to the school. Mr. Wei On took great interest in this school. He was a distinguished member of the Chinese Community and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His sudden illness and early death were greatly deplored and regretted by his many friends both of the East and the West in the Colony. The two prizes designated the Wei On Memorial Prize are given by his friends to perpetuate the memory of one who was a cultured representative of Western Education. One winner is selected on the recommendation of the school prefects, the other prizeman is nominated by the masters in conference. Of the prefect's nominees the school has chosen See Chong Su, and the other prize falls to Fung Man Sai. The claims of two candidates for this prize were very even, and, as the masters were equally divided, it was necessary to ask the prefects who have this year appointed both prize winners. These rewards carry especial value, as they are given chiefly for force of character as shown throughout the year. The further kindly encouraging interest of our many friends has again been evinced and we have to thank the following for contributions to the prize fund: Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Messrs. S. W. Tsai, Ng Pak-to, Cheung Sum-foo, Lo Sui-po, Chau Siu-ki, Lui Kwai-pui, Lo Chen-shun, Chau Ning-ki, Chau Kam-wing, Chiu Seung-sang, Cheng Woo-nin, Chu Sik-yu, Leung Ping-nam, Tso Tsz-cheung, Yau Shue, Wan Mau-tai, Chai Siu-lam, Wong Wing-chiu, Chau King-ting and Mrs. Poon Chau-shi. I have thankfully to acknowledge the loyal and faithful work of the masters during the absence of the Rev. E. J. Barnett. Their very cheerful cooperation in every thing that tended to benefit the school has lightened my own burden in no small degree and I trust we shall be able to carry on satisfactorily until his return. One word of commendation is also due to the senior boys for their assistance in maintaining efficiency by their example in work and influence on the boys. We are still suffering from want of space, and we trust that before long the parents and friends of the students will enable us to make the necessary additions to the building to enable us to extend and increase the utility of the school, for the

special class of students for whose welfare it is designed. Three of our boys (Lo Lok Tsai, Philip, o. Lo Kwan Yan) are at present in England, preparing for, or studying at, Oxford or other universities. No less than five of our number have arranged to accompany His Excellency On Ting Fan to America; Lo Tait Yuen expects to join his brother, while Lo Po Shue, Chan Sing Nam, Ho Wing Yuen and Po Wing Lee also intend to continue their studies in the States. We look forward to a gradual supplementing of our numbers in foreign seats of learning.

BISHOP LANDER, before asking His Excellency to present the prizes, dwelt on the importance and advantages of education, remarking that it was the desire of St. Stephen's College to lay such a foundation that the scholars would go on educating themselves. The College had to congratulate themselves on the presence of Their Excellency, which was greatly appreciated. His Lordship thought that such a college required a more spacious building, and he hoped the time would soon come when it would be erected, as they had the land, and now required only the money. He thought the College should be affiliated with one of the home universities, and scholarships should be formed so that those who excelled could go to Oxford, Cambridge and other western universities. His Lordship then asked the Governor to present the prizes.

HIS EXCELLENCY—My Lord Bishop, Mr. Warden Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a very pleasant task which devolves upon the Governor about this time each year to distribute the prizes at various institutions and to congratulate both masters and boys on the successes won during the hard term preceded. Each institution which I visit has got a different character of some particular interest, and I think of all there is none with a more exceptional interest than St. Stephen's (applause). It has been founded, as you know, for the sons of Chinese gentlemen, and is self-supporting. It has a staff of six English masters and two Chinese masters, and its numbers are steadily increasing. Last year its numbers were about 133, I believe, and this year, as we have just heard, they reach 151. The school has only been established for five years, and last year was the first year in which you secured successes in the Oxford Local Examinations. There were two passes in the senior, two in the junior and two in the preliminary, a total of seven. This year, as we have just heard, there were four in the senior, six in the junior and three in the preliminary, a total of thirteen, which is nearly double that of last year (applause). I congratulate you, Sir, and I congratulate the school very heartily on that success; and I am glad to see too, that in the report which I think we may consider as eminently satisfactory, that great progress was made in the general standards of the school. You were able to raise the standard of the first three forms so as to make them equivalent to the senior, junior and preliminary Oxford examinations respectively; and in the recently established science classes the warden is able to report great success both in chemistry, physics and agricultural science; so much so that I see you wish to include them next year in the papers for the Oxford Local, and I wish you every success in them. In sports too, you have been preeminently successful. I am glad to hear that you won seven out of eight cricket matches, and drew another. I think that preeminence in sport is a matter which is very important, for I think it acts largely in the training of character, and I am particularly glad in this school to hear from the report which has just been read that great attention has been paid to this matter which, in my opinion, is the most valuable thing that a boy could acquire in his school career. Both in the fact that the example of the senior boys to the juniors was so praised; in the fact that you were able to secure the services of the distinguished leaders named by the warden, and that the subjects chosen by them were subjects I think peculiarly well adapted to the object in view; that is to say, the developing of character, and more especially to the object to which you devoted your two new prizes, which were given. I understand, chiefly to the boys who distinguished themselves by force of character (applause). In all these

matters I am glad to be able to congratulate you. St. Stephen's is a young school; quite in its infancy; but it has large ambitions, and in those ambitions I share. My predecessor, when distributing the prizes on a former occasion, suggested that this school might be affiliated with an English university. The Lord Bishop just told us that he endorsed that hope, and his Lordship made further valuable suggestions that scholarships in connection with a home university should be instituted here. I may also say that if this scheme is feasible it will have my most cordial support (applause). And while I share these ambitions it may be said that I go one further, for I think that Hongkong should be the Oxford and Cambridge of the Far East (applause). It seems to me, ladies and gentlemen, that our geographical position here is one which lends itself in an extraordinary way to making us an industrial and educational centre in this part of the world. The progress of this Colony in fifty years of its existence has shown both on the side of material prosperity and in the growth of educational institutions, general and medical, that it has prospered under the British flag, and I think gives us ground for hope that these ambitions may some day be realised. I do not speak in the nature of mere optimistic belief; the opportunity is now with us to be taken as we may be able or not to grasp it (applause). I believe myself in the awakening of China and in the opportunities for reciprocal benefits which that awakening will give to us, and I believe that we must either now take those opportunities or leave them for others to take. The warden when distributing the prizes last year alluded to the liberality of the ideas which were evident in the Peking examinations that year. That showed that China wanted a new class of men and a new class of learning and he added the significant words that St. Stephen's College must train the men China wanted. That ladies and gentlemen, is my view (applause). I hope that Hongkong and this College may become the embryo University of Western learning not merely for our own Colony but for the great and friendly Empire which is on our frontier (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY then presented the prizes to successful students, and LADY LUGARD presented the Oxford Local Certificates.

On conclusion of this task a vote of thanks to Their Excellencies was proposed by the Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. CHAU SIU KI and carried by acclamation. The proceedings ended with cheers for Their Excellencies, for the Bishop and for Archdeacon Banister.

ANGLO-CHINESE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

The annual distribution of prizes of the Anglo-Chinese District Schools took place at the Wantai School on January 18th. Their Excellencies the Governor and Lady Lugard presiding. There was a large attendance which included Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, Mr. A. Morris, head of the Saiyingpun School, Mr. W. B. Moore, master of the Yau-mati school, Mr. Yeung Hee, principal of the Wantai school, Brother Sylvester, Director of St. Joseph's College, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Vömel, Mr. Wilkinson, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Yeung Hee, Mrs. Titcher, Mr. Green, Mrs. Hewett and Miss Bird. On arrival their Excellencies, who were accompanied by Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, were met by the Inspector of Schools and conducted to a platform erected near the centre of the room. The proceedings opened by a young scholar reciting "The Fox and the Grapes," and then the heads read their school reports as under:—

SAIYINGPUN SCHOOL.

Mr. MORRIS—The increase in attendance during the year under review is unparalleled in the annals of the school. In 1906 the average attendance was 97 for the working portion of the school year, i.e. from reopening after the Chinese New Year vacation, to the end of December; while for 1907 it is 219, or an increase of 125.7 per cent. The revenue is also proportionately greater, \$1007 were collected as fees in 1906, while for the year just closed, the aggregate is \$4496, representing a gain of 135.7 per cent. A notable and commendable feature of the attendance, is

the comparatively large number, who have made "full attendance"; they total 21. At the beginning of the year, the staff was strengthened by the appointment of three assistants—one to each of grades 3, 5 and 7,—and during the current year, we hope to have an additional English master. Great credit is due to the teachers for their loyal co-operation in bringing the year's work to a successful and satisfactory termination, and for their efforts in raising the school to its present flourishing state. They have carried out their respective duties under considerable disadvantage,—duties which have been rendered doubly difficult and irksome,—through the very limited floor space at their disposal, and it is sincerely hoped that the proposed enlargement of the premises by the addition of a "storey" will be put in hand as early as is practicable. At the hygiene examination, held in December, the school did well, tying with Yau-mati for second place. As in previous years, the usual excursions and picnics were conducted, and the instruction in swimming was keenly appreciated. Football has claimed a fair share of attention, and matches have been regularly played between the district schools. The customary half yearly and annual examinations were held, and the results are, on the whole, good. A report on each boy's work was duly forwarded to the parent or guardian. The report of the Inspector of Schools has not been received yet, but he will, no doubt, refer in the course of his remarks to the impressions which he formed on the general condition of the work of the school.

WANTAI SCHOOL.

Mr. YEUNG HEI—The staff was, at the beginning of 1907, strengthened by the addition of two assistant masters, one V and one VI grade, so that the staff for the year has been seven assistants and myself. I take this opportunity of publicly thanking my assistants for their hearty co-operation in bringing the past year's work to a successful issue. The attendance has again greatly improved when compared with that of 1906. On the 1st January, there were 119 names on the school roll. On reassembling after the New Year vacation, 96 of the old scholars returned, and 122 out of 129 new applicants were admitted. During the course of the year, 49 additional boys were enrolled, bringing the total for the year to 290, being an increase of 74 upon that of the previous year. For various reasons, 86 left, and of these, about one half entered Queen's College; many found situations with local commercial firms, and a number, through poverty, were unable to pay the necessary fee. The maximum monthly enrollment was 230 and the number on roll at the end of the year was 204. The school was open on 230 days, and the average daily attendance for the "actual" school year was 219, as compared with 146 for the preceding year, 42 boys registered the full attendance. The fees collected amount to \$4,116, which is an increase of 38 per cent. upon that of 1906, and 78 per cent. upon that of 1905. The apparatus in the school is satisfactory; 75 dual desks are now in use, and more have been provided for in the estimates for the current year. In view of the continued and steady growth of the school, more desks will be required when the school building has been extended as is proposed. A covered shed for a gymnasium has been erected on the playground; but owing to lack of accommodation, it has been temporarily utilized as a class room. Simple physical drill and exercises have been taught during the cool seasons, and were keenly appreciated by the boys. The pupils made many excursions to various places of interest in the Colony during the summer months which have proved most instructive and also rendered much valuable assistance to the teaching of the local Geography and English colloquial. The Normal class under the supervision of the head masters of the three District Schools was conducted here during the first term and much useful work was done. The scholars' eyes were examined by Dr. Jordan and over 9 per cent of them were diagnosed as suffering from trachoma. Fortunately 55 per cent of the cases were pronounced "mild," 32 per cent "bad" and only 4 per cent "very bad." Most of the cases have since been treated. A team from this school took part in the Hygiene competition; but owing to the usual exodus of scholars from the higher classes at midsummer, the field of choice

was limited and consequently we only gained the 4th place. The innovation of a half holiday on Wednesday has been much appreciated both by masters and scholars. Football continues to be the favourite pastime, and much enthusiasm is displayed in the matches with other schools. The regular half-yearly and annual examinations have been held and the results communicated to the boys' guardians and relatives. The Inspector of Schools made his usual inspection last month; but his report is not yet to hand. In conclusion, Sir, I trust I may be allowed to express the hope that the proposed enlargement of the school be put in hand as early as possible.

YAU-MATI SCHOOL.

Mr. MOORE—At the commencement of the school the staff consisted of Mr. W. Curwin, Head master, Mr. J. C. Parkin, Assistant master and five Chinese assistant masters. On October 1st Mr. J. C. Parkin resigned and I was appointed to fill the vacancy. Then soon after Mr. Curwin, the headmaster left for England on a year's well earned leave, and I was appointed to act during his absence. In the early part of the year an addition was made to the staff by the appointment of Mr. Lo Pak-yeung, as assistant vernacular master. I have nothing but praise for the work of the staff and the way in which they assisted me. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Morris for his kind help and advice. Fees have increased from \$1,555 to \$4,079 and the average daily attendance has risen from 171 to 185. The highest number in attendance was 231 in May and the lowest 162 in January. Empire day was celebrated in the usual way and during the year excursions were made along the new road to the new Kowloon Reservoir-Railway Tunnel, Catchwater, etc. The teaching of hygiene was continued this year with very good results.

In the team examination this school tied with Saiyingpun school for second place, and had it not been that two of the best pupils were ill, we might have done better still. The four scholarships at Queen's College were all taken by our boys.

1st Lo Kwong Fuk obtained 85 per cent marks.
2nd Pang Fung I " 83 " "
3rd Yeung Ki Sam " 81 " "
4th Yeung King Chan " 85 " "

Football is the only recreation at present to be had by the boys, and in this they have made remarkable improvement. Owing to the impossibility of competing for the schools shield with any commensurate success, it was decided to drop out of the League and endeavour to obtain a cup for the three District Schools. Mr. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, however, has kindly offered a very handsome cup for this purpose. In concluding, I would like to refer to Mr. Curwin's closing remarks last year. He said that this school was built to accommodate 200 pupils, and the average number paying fees during the last nine months of that year was 203 so that the question of enlargement would soon have to be considered. During the past year the average number has been 220. It would appear, therefore, much more necessary now that the number is so much larger.

Mr. WOLFE then passed some remarks on the three schools and their working in 1907, and dwelt on the manners of the boys when out of school. He told them that if they wore European dress they should adopt the manners that go with it. They should take off their hats when they met their teachers, and when speaking to the master they should not stand with their hands in their trouser pockets. Neither when addressing anyone should they fold their arms. The Inspector of Schools concluded his address by asking the Governor to present the prizes.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Ladies and gentlemen, Within the last day or two I have had the pleasure of distributing prizes at one or two of the large schools in this Colony, which are under the auspices of the Mission Societies. To-day, for the first time, I come amongst you and I have the pleasure of distributing the prizes in this group of Government Schools, which I usually call the District Schools, and in this I feel naturally as head of the Government a special interest and special responsibility, and although I have been so short a time in the Colony I venture to add a special pride. (Applause.) The report of the three headmasters,

to which we have just listened and the report of the Inspector of Schools, are, I think we will all agree, exceedingly satisfactory (Applause). In the matter of attendance these schools have increased wonderfully. The Wanchai School has increased from 146 last year to 210 this year, in average attendance. The Saiyingpun School, which had an attendance of only forty-four the year before last, more than doubled that last year, and has an average attendance of ninety-seven, and this year has again more than doubled its attendance and has an average of 219. Yau-mati, which had an attendance the year before last of 98, nearly doubled that last year, the attendance being 171, and this year it has increased to 185. The total of these, including the small village school of Tung-yu-gehau, gives a total of 611 boys belonging to this group of Government District Schools. The Inspector of Schools has just said a few words about your behaviour out of school hours. I would like you to feel that you are a group of schools which are so closely associated together as preparatory to Queen's College, that you should have a feeling that you belonged as it were to one public school which is in three different groups and that you should feel that you have a dignity to support and a position to maintain, as boys of the District Schools, which would make you ashamed to look slovenly or to do mean things or to behave out of school hours, in a way which is not suitable to the Government Schools of this Colony. (Applause.) With the remarkable increase in numbers which I have just spoken of there has been some difficulty for the Government to keep pace. Yau-mati is largely newly-built but we have just heard from the Acting Headmaster that they still require playgrounds and even further extensions. Wanchai requires two extra rooms for which we have provision in this year's estimates. Saiyingpun is to have a new story for which we also have provision in this year's estimates. The public works department of this Colony is presided over by a gentleman whose ability and courtesy is only equalled by his readiness to oblige in all matters regarding education, in which as a Scotsman, I am sure he is particularly interested (Applause). I do not think he will need much pressure from me to put this work in hand as quickly as possible, and have it done in a thoroughly efficient and workmanlike manner (Applause). The Inspector of Schools has rightly said that the proficiency in work which has been attained in the last year is due and must be due to the excellent work of the Headmasters and Staffs of the Schools, and that this result is largely due to the increase which has been made in those staffs during the past year. Wanchai has now seven Chinese masters, and Saiyingpun has two English masters and also a staff of seven Chinese masters. The apparatus, too, has been very largely increased, and I am glad to see you appreciate this newly-introduced desks. I am glad to see in the reports that stress is laid on the fact that the apparatus in the schools is thoroughly efficient and useful (Applause). The Inspector of Schools mentioned in his report just now and has also told me verbally that he is glad to note among these three schools a keen rivalry both in work and sports. That is a matter which I hear with great pleasure, and that friendly emulation will be my object in every way I can to stimulate and encourage (Applause). I am very glad to learn from him that he thinks the large increase in numbers has been paralleled by the increase and proficiency in studies and I am glad to see too that he spoke of satisfactory progress in English colloquial. There is an Arabic proverb, which says—"that every new tongue that is acquired gives you a new personality." I would like Chinese boys to remember that by learning English you learn to understand the thoughts, the literature, and the character of the English nation. I regret that I do not speak Chinese myself; I have not been long enough in the Far East to acquire so difficult a language, but I would like to be able to understand the thoughts, the literature, and the character of the Chinese as I feel I can never do until I know Chinese (Applause). Last year the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Irving, laid great stress upon the fact that numbers of boys entered for Queen's College, and this point has been again taken up by Mr. Wolfe, and I should like to see in the annual report of each school each year

the number given of entries to Queen's College in that year, and I shall study with great interest the comparative numbers and I hope the three schools will in this matter also emulate each other and pass in as many as they can to Queen's College. I dare say there are present to-day some of the parents of the boys and I would say there is no gift which a father can give to a son which is greater and more important than education. An entry to Queen's College would mean that it is the intention of the father to keep his boy three or four more years at school so that he can reach a higher standard of education. This is more valuable than an early partnership in business or even a large fortune in dollars, for a boy who leaves school early can only in after life obtain some second or third rate appointment. Boys who acquire a good education and a colloquial knowledge of English have open to them many appointments in mercantile houses in the Government of the Colony, and also in China, and here again I will say as I have said more than once lately that it is our object in these Government Schools as well as in most schools to train boys not merely for our own Colony, but for work in the great Empire of China to which their people belong. There will also, I hope, be many opportunities for employment when the railway which is now being built across the water is completed, and there will be more opportunities opening for boys on completion of the various railways now being built in China. Boys, I wish you very happy holidays, and as Chinese New Year is now coming very shortly I wish you also a Happy New Year (Loud Applause).

The Governor then presented the prizes, and on conclusion of his task Mr. Wolfe proposed a vote of thanks to Their Excellencies for attending, which the scholars seconded amid great applause. The proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

CHINESE SCHOOLBOYS.

Dr. Bateson-Wright tells some amusing and suggestive stories in this month's *Yellow Dragon* of experiences with his pupils at Queen's College. The following verbatim account of an interview with the Headmaster fits our editorial to-day, as showing that while a language may be "exact" (as Chinese is said pre-eminently to be) it does not always get fairly treated. The conversation was entirely in Chinese, and the translation is guaranteed to be faithful.

A boy with no books in hand enters the office.
Want leave.
What for?
Nothing.
You are talking nonsense, come back when the Chinese Master comes.
He accordingly does so, and addresses the Chinese Master.
Want leave.
What for?
Nothing.
Don't be a fool, you are talking nonsense.
After considerable trouble the boy advances another stage.
Want leave, come back.
He wants to report return to duty and that is the mysterious manner in which he does it. This has happened a dozen times at least this year.

In interview No. 4, it was quite possible that the aged man's relatives were innocently anticipating the event. Leave was requested for a pupil on the score of his grandfather's death. It was discovered that the boy had already been absent six weeks, or a month prior to the death, and the explanation was that he had been trying unsuccessfully to find a lucky site for his grandfather's grave.

The seventh interview is typical of the Chinese disregard for veracity in the matter of excuses.

My father wants me to go to Macao.
Bring your father here.
As Isaac was suspicious of the speed with which the pseudo-father returned with the venison doubts were excited at the promptness with which the desired father appeared.
Are you this boy's father?
Yes, he is my son.
Why does he want leave?
To go to Macao.
What for?

Why you see, his father wrote...
Hullo! Then you are of the boy's father.

Leave refused, man and boy both go away highly amused at being discovered in an attempt at fraud.

BRITISH LAW AND CHINESE LITIGANTS.

Here is an example of the flowery language which they use in the Flowery Land. The following letter which was read at the Supreme Court, was written by one ancient Chinese litigant to another:—

"I could no longer endure his overbearing behaviour and straightway charged him with shamelessness. I said: 'Who asked you to trust me. On Monday you and I will both follow British law. You think you are familiar with the ways of the Court, and in years you have passed the rare age of ancient times, (i.e. 70 years). I also have unprofitably gone through a complete cycle, (i.e. 60 years). We can confront each other in the Court; our words will not yield to each other. . . . My humble idea was that if this telegram said that the money had been paid into your respectable shop would be anxious to go for the Wing Fung, and there might be a hope that Hongkong and Amoy might not be lost. Then on Monday, he as plaintiff, and I as defendant, would plead and it would then be necessary to wait for the arrival of evidence from Amoy and then probably the money need not be paid back. British law attaches great importance to true evidence. If there is any false word said, it may be difficult to close the case in three years, and one's name becomes really very unequippable. This is what I have to inform you. Pardon for not using red paper, which is really a matter of no great importance. I trust you will take into consideration the fact that my eyes are dim and writing on red paper cannot be clearly seen by me. I beg respectfully to inquire after your spring health."

WRECK OF THE "YIK SANG."

On Jan. 17th Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. received news from the North of the wreck of their steamer "Yik Sang" which is commanded by Captain Thomas. The "Yik Sang," which carries a cargo of about 3,000 tons of coal, stranded off the Brothers, and fears are entertained that she will become a total wreck. The Chief Engineer, Mr. F. R. Pinkerton, and five of her Chinese crew are missing. The steamer "Fau Sang," which is proceeding North, was wired to proceed to the wreck and be on the look out for survivors in the vicinity. The foreign crew of the wrecked vessel will be brought on to Hongkong, while the Chinese will be returned to Shanghai. The "Yik Sang" was built in 1902, and has a gross tonnage of 1966 tons, and a net tonnage of 1236 tons. She is the unfortunate vessel of Messrs. Jardine Matheson's fleet, for beyond those damaged by mines etc. during the war between Russia and Japan, she is the first steamer to be wrecked for about twenty years.

AN ENGINEER DROWNED.

A sad accident ended a pleasant evening spent by a number of friends with the engineers of the s.s. *Hopani* on January 9th. The steamer in question is lying at the Kowloon Docks, and on the night mentioned some friends of the engineers went aboard to see them. When they were about to depart, Mr. Barker, the second engineer, undertook to show the visitors as far as the Dock gates. To get ashore it was necessary to pass a plank which crossed from the *Hopani* to the steamer *Hercules*. While crossing this Mr. Barker capsized and disappeared. Lights were immediately procured, and the search for the missing engineer continued for some time, but without success. It is believed that in his fall Mr. Barker struck his head, and sank. He was a native of Govan, Scotland, and had been in the employ of the Ind. China Steamship Co. for six years. During his stay in the Colony he made a host of friends, who will grieve to learn of his untimely end.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the Board room at noon on Jan. 11th to consider what steps should be taken to cope with an outbreak of rinderpest at the Dairy Farm, Lokfulam. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Colonel Martin, R.A.M.C., Captain Lyons, Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

Mr. A. GIBSON, Veterinary Surgeon, informed the Board that on Thursday he received a report from the Manager of the Dairy Farm that the cattle in No. 7 shed showed symptoms of illness. There were 12 cows, one bull and 32 calves in the sheds and on examination Mr. Gibson found five of the calves had high temperatures. All the calves were removed to No. 1 Isolation Shed, those with fever at one end and the healthy ones at the other. Shed No. 7 and No. 1 Isolation shed were then closed. Another outbreak occurred at midway, where 36 animals were housed and of these nine appeared suspicious. These nine were removed to No. 2 Isolation Shed; ten were left where they were and the remainder (17) were placed in an empty shed slightly lower down the hill. This was to give the animals more room. The sheds were sprayed with disinfectant and thoroughly cleaned.

COLONEL MARTIN moved that all the animals be destroyed.

Mr. HOOPER—What is the value of the infected calves?

Mr. GIBSON—Well, they range from \$20 to \$90 or \$100; there are 14 sick calves.

The PRESIDENT—Are you trying the serum with these calves?

Mr. GIBSON—No; the results with serum last year were not very satisfactory. I do not recommend the killing of these calves for those I saw to-day seem to be recovering.

COLONEL MARTIN—What percentage would you expect to save?

Mr. GIBSON—About 55 or 70 per cent.

The PRESIDENT—If Colonel Martin's suggestion is adopted it would involve the Government in an outlay of \$17,000.

Mr. HOOPER—I think it is rather premature to kill them all, and would propose that discretionary powers be vested in the Hon. Dr. Atkinson and Mr. Gibson to kill those which they think should be killed.

The PRESIDENT—Calves which recover are more valuable.

Mr. GIBSON—Doubly so.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded Mr Hooper's motion, and it was carried.

NEW H.A.L. STEAMER.

A new steamer for the Hamburg Amerika Linie arrived in port on Jan. 15th, and leaves to-day for the North. She is called the "Sikiang," and was built by Messrs. Koch of Lubeck, specially for the Yangtse passenger trade. She is to be engaged on the run between Taku, Shanghai and Kiachau, and is replete with all the necessities a ship requires on the eastern run. The "Sikiang" is fitted with machinery and steering gear of the latest pattern. She is lighted throughout with electricity, and fitted with steam pipes which will be necessary in the colder climate of the north at this time of year. The cabins are roomy and double berthed, and throughout, in the fitting of the vessel, it may be said that the comfort of passengers has always been kept in view. Captain Habal and Chief Officer Borgholz speak very highly of their latest steamer, whose behaviour in rough weather pleased them immensely.

The "Sikiang" is a vessel of 120 tons net registered tonnage. She has a length of 298 feet, a breadth of 48 feet, and a draught, when heavy laden, of 16.5 feet. Her engines are of 1200 horse power, and her speed on the trip from Hamburg registered 11½ knots an hour. She can carry 2200 tons of cargo and has accommodation for 26 first and eight second class passengers.

SUICIDE IN JAIL.

PRISONER AWAITING EXTRADITION HANGS HIMSELF.

At the Magistracy on January 15th before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, sitting as coroner, and Messrs. F. O. Day, C. Barretto and C. Petersen, jurors, an inquiry was held into the circumstances of the death of Ho Yue, whose extradition has been applied for by the Chinese Authorities on a charge of armed robbery. The deceased was on remand in police custody pending the arrival of witnesses from China. Yesterday morning his dead body was found hanging by a cord from one of the bars of the window of his cell. Another native, who was charged jointly with the defendant, also attempted to commit suicide, but was unsuccessful.

Mr. E. J. Pierpoint, the principal warder of Victoria Jail, was the first witness called. He said deceased was received into prison on November 21st. As a remand prisoner he was allowed to wear his own clothes, and food was supplied him by friends outside. He showed no indications of violence which would lead to the supposition that suicide was contemplated. As a prisoner in the remand cell he was visited every fifteen minutes by the officer on duty.

A jurymen asked how it was possible for deceased to have made a rope without being noticed?—By lying on his bed and working underneath the blanket.

How long would you think it took him to weave the edgings of the blanket into a rope? About four or five hours.

An Indian jail guard gave evidence as to finding deceased's body suspended from a window bar with a rope round the neck.

Warder Macleod said he was informed of the suicide by an Indian jail guard. On going to the cell he found deceased hanging by a rope from a window bar. His mouth and nose were stuffed with cotton wool. The body was cut down, artificial respiration resorted to, and continued until the arrival of the doctor.

Mr. Gompertz—Can you say where he got the cotton wool from?—From the lining of his teapot.

And the rope?—It was made from pieces of blanket and twine removed from his mat.

Dr. W. B. A. Moore, medical officer of the Jail, testified to making a postmortem examination of the body. In his opinion death was due to asphyxia.

Mr. Pierpoint, recalled, was asked whether in his opinion prisoners awaiting extradition to China were more prone to commit suicide than other people. He replied that they were very much so.

The jury found that death was due to suicide, caused by hanging.

ANOTHER COLLAPSE.

At about 11.30 on January 16th the 33 employed in the large building in Pedder Street facing the Hongkong Hotel were startled by a loud noise which was subsequently discovered to be caused by the falling in of the roof above Messrs. Lutgens, Einsmann and Co's offices. A crowd soon gathered in Pedder Street, all having heard the crash, but as they could see nothing wrong with the walls of the surrounding buildings, many proceeded to investigate, and then it was found that the collapse had occurred in the comparatively new building mentioned. Fortunately there was no one in the room, the roof of which fell in, but in the adjoining room at the time two of Messrs. Lutgens Einsmann's employees were engaged. It appears that there was a crack in that portion of the roof which gave way, and the rain getting in beneath the outside roofing percolated the inner part, thus increasing its weight and giving the beams supporting it too heavy a weight to carry. Just before the collapse the contractor was rung up and asked to attend immediately and repair the roof; but he came too late. Yesterday afternoon scaffolding was run up on the south side of the building and repairs proceeded with.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, January 10th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DEBTORS' PETITION.

Re Moosa e Vieira and Co. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared in support of the petition filed by the debtor firm, and stated that an affidavit on the file showed the assets to be \$61,000, and the liabilities about \$250,000.

His Lordship—I don't know about concurrence by the partner.

Mr. Grist—I think I can satisfy your Lordship on that point. Section 74 of our present Ordinance is exactly the same as section 115 of the Bankruptcy Act at home, which states that any two or more persons being partners, may take proceedings or be proceeded against in the name of the firm. In such a case the Court may order the names of the partners to be disclosed. In this case they have already been disclosed, and an affidavit sworn that the petition was filed with the consent of both partners. It is necessary to protect the assets of the estate in Hongkong to be divided among all the creditors, so the partner in Hongkong signs the petition in the name of the firm, and swears an affidavit that he does so with the consent of his other partner.

His Lordship—What was the practice settled some time ago; that a petition had to be signed by all the partners?

Mr. Grist—I don't think that was settled.

Mr. Morrell—In a case I had the proceedings were set aside because it was not.

Mr. Kemp (Official Trustee)—In that case a partner signed his own name, not that of the firm. I believe he could not get the consent of the other partners.

Mr. Grist—The rule at home under that particular section of the Act is rule 261. There is no doubt whatever under the home practice, and where no rules have been made here I think we have always adopted the home rules.

His Lordship granted the petition.

RECEIVING ORDER GRANTED.

Re Chan Mow Chi. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared in support of this debtor's application for a receiving order. An affidavit had been filed setting out the liabilities at \$54,900, and the assets at \$7500 consisting of the equity of redemption of leasehold property known and registered in the land office as section A of the Praya Reclamation to Marine Lot 71.

The application was granted.

DISCHARGE SUSPENDED.

Re H. W. R. Matthey. This was an application by the debtor for his discharge.

Mr. Grist appeared in support of it, and stated that the Official Receiver and Trustee had filed a report stating that the receiving order in this bankruptcy was made on January 31st, 1907. The debtor was adjudged bankrupt on February 21st, and the public examination concluded on June 13th. A dividend of 10 per cent was declared on September 6th. No further dividend would be payable in this matter, but he was of opinion that the debtor had not committed any misdemeanour under the Bankruptcy Ordinance. An unconditional and immediate order for his discharge could not be made, as a dividend of 50 per cent had not been paid and would not be payable. The usual practice was to grant the discharge, and keep it back for so long.

His Lordship—What is the practice according to Common Law?

Mr. Kemp—Three months; sometimes six months.

His Lordship—The discharge is suspended for six months.

APPLICATION ADJOURNED.

Re James Campbell Logan. Mr. M. J. D. Stephens applied for an adjournment of the application made by the debtor to rescind a receiving order to enable Logan to settle with the plaintiff in an action which had really been the cause of the bankruptcy proceedings. The plaintiff was Mr. Watkins.

His Lordship—What am I to adjourn?

Mr. Stephens—The application for annulling the bankruptcy. The matter stands in that form at the present moment. I applied on the last occasion that the bankruptcy should be annulled, as the bankrupt was enabled to meet all his creditors in full. Your Lordship directed that I should bring in a consent from all the creditors, but there was one I was unable to bring in.

Mr. Almada—I am appearing for Watkins L.L. and do not object to an adjournment.

His Lordship—I don't see why you should if you are going to get your money. The case is adjourned for a month.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

Re the Shiu Hong Tsung firm. This examination was conducted by Mr. J. H. Kemp, the Trustee in Bankruptcy, and Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, represented the majority of the creditors).

Tai Kwan-po said he acted as manager of the Shiu Hong Tsung on the death of his father, which occurred on February 14th, 1898. He was a partner in the firm, which had been carried on for about 31 years. During the last two years they lost money in the business, but previous to this they made a profit of from \$100 to \$200 a year. The failure was due to loss of business, and a loss of \$6000 on a house. Their shop was a foreign goods shop. Their liabilities were \$15,900, and the assets \$4,200, made up of \$1200 cash; \$1400 debts due to the firm; and stock worth \$1600. That stock sold for \$176.

Examined by Mr. Looker, debtor said he was now a partner in the firm. He became a partner immediately his father died. In 1904 the firm made a profit of \$282, and every year before that there had been a profit. Debtor's father started the firm, but when he died he was without means.

You maintain that he had no property when he died?—He had no money.

You have some property in the country?—No.

I put it to you that you have a family house in Sin Tung village?—It's untrue.

I put it to you that you have 48 mu of field at Kwan Ping village, a share in the Yee Chi medicine shop of Canton, a share in the Tung Tai Shop and a share in the Wo On shop of 87, Bonham Strand East?—No.

Did you not tell another creditor that you would sell your paddy fields to pay the shop's debts?—I did not.

Why have you been gradually selling the goods and winding the business up?—Because there was a loss.

Mr. Looker asked leave to call witnesses who would swear that the debtor had told them that he owned property in the country.

His Lordship—Very well, but I think you should warn him first.

The witness was warned accordingly.

Cheung Tong, comprador to Messrs. Meyerink and Co., said the debtor had told him he owned several fields in the country, and that they were valued at between \$7,000 and \$8,000 and that he (the debtor) had some shares in the Wo On shop.

Debtor—Did I mention paddy fields?

Witness—Yes, you said you would rather go to jail than sell them.

Cheung Hok-lam said the debtor had told him not to be anxious about his debt as he owned some paddy fields which he would sell, if necessary.

Mr. Looker applied to his Lordship for a warrant for the debtor's arrest as there was evidence that he had committed a breach of the Bankruptcy Ordinance in concealing his property or failing to disclose it.

His Lordship—Yes, there is a certain amount of evidence put before the Court.

Mr. Looker said the creditors desired to prosecute, and he was told that there was further evidence that could be brought forward at the proper time. He asked for a warrant for the arrest.

His Lordship—I think there should be a warrant say, within a month. There is this point: you will be bound in the bankruptcy by the finding of the jury in the criminal case.

Mr. Looker—Yes. If they acquit him then there is no property.

His Lordship—You will have to accept that. The jury must be satisfied there was no intent to defraud.

Mr. Looker—If the debtor has got property he can dispose of it. It is his duty to do that and hand over the proceeds to the trustee.

His Lordship—But supposing the Bankruptcy Ordinance does not extend to property elsewhere—where the property is beyond the power of the Colonial Government? If it is not property that the trustee has power to take it would follow that it is not property to disclose.

Mr. Looker—I think the trustee has power to take it through the Consul at Canton. The Official Receiver informs me that this has been done.

His Lordship—If you once start the criminal law in motion the point will have to be discussed. The whole question is a very big one. Perhaps, under the circumstances, this little pressure may induce the bankrupt—

Mr. Looker—We hope that it may. It has been known to do so before.

The application was granted.

Monday, January 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

DISPUTED WOL CONTRACT.

Ip On and Co. sought to recover from the Fu Kut Cheong firm the sum of \$197.95 for goods sold and delivered, and agreed interest and commission thereon. Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the defendants.

Mr. Dixon stated that the plaintiffs' claim was for Berlin wool, and the defendants had paid into Court the sum of \$147.71, so there was about \$100 difference between the parties. He supposed the parties were agreed to a great extent upon the facts. On November 17th, 1906, the plaintiffs entered into a contract with the defendants by which they agreed to buy five cases of Berlin wool at the invoice price plus 2½ per cent commission, and the terms of payment were ninety days from delivery of the goods. As soon as both parties had signed the contract plaintiffs wrote to their agents in Hamburg to procure the goods for them, stating in the letter that they enclosed a trial order for five cases of Berlin wool which was to be taken in hand at the lowest price possible in order to give them a start in that line. On April 4th they received a letter from their agents in Hamburg stating that they had shipped the goods, and enclosing an invoice. The mode of payment was by bank draft. On the same day as they received the invoice the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank presented a draft for £18.11.3. On April 20th a foki from the plaintiffs' shop was sent to the defendants' shop, told them when the goods were expected to arrive, and gave them a copy of the invoice which the defendants accepted. About a week after this the goods arrived and were placed in godown. On May 10th defendants went to plaintiffs' shop and asked for delivery of the goods. Plaintiffs said the goods were in godown, and gave the defendants a delivery order; they also told them that under the bank draft they would have to pay for the goods on August 10th. The defendants said "All right." At the end of July, and on August 1st, plaintiffs went to see defendants at their shop, and reminded them that the bill had to be met on August 10th. On the second visit the defendants said they did not think they would be able to meet the draft.

His Lordship—Had they bought the goods?

Mr. Dixon—Yes.

His Lordship—And taken delivery?

Mr. Dixon—Yes.

Proceeding, Mr. Dixon stated that on August 2nd the defendants asked for an extension of the time of payment. Plaintiffs said they could not grant this theme lives, but would have to cable to Hamburg. They did, and on August 7th were informed by the bank that they were perfectly willing to extend the time of payment to December 7th. On October 10th plaintiffs again sent to defendants to know if they could meet the draft. Then defendants, for the first time, raised the point that the price was too high. As a matter of fact it was a fair

market price, and plaintiffs informed them that they could not say that under the contract. On December 7th the bill became due, and plaintiffs applied to the defendants for payment. Defendants refused to pay, so plaintiffs paid the bill. What they were now suing for was £48.11.3. Defendants ought to have paid in the first instance on August 7th, but the time was extended to December 7th. They did not wish to be out of pocket; all they asked for under the contract was their 2½ per cent commission.

His Lordship—What did you pay?

Mr. Dixon—\$532. That was at the rate of exchange ruling on December 7th?

Mr. Kong Sing—The bill was drawn on you, it was not?

Mr. Dixon—Yes.

Mr. Kong Sing—That is the point, my Lord. At the time these goods were ordered there was a price list of 1/3, and that was the price given to my clients, who agreed to it. The goods arrived in April, but no notice was given to my client. He had to make personal application. This bill is drawn on the plaintiffs, and when exchange rose my clients offered to pay in dollars, which the plaintiffs refused to accept. I have paid what we admit to be due into Court. Plaintiffs are liable on the bill.

Mr. Dixon—We extended it expressly for your benefit.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs for the amount paid in, and judgment for the defendants for the difference between the amount paid in and the amount claimed.

Tuesday, January 14th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

MONEY LOAN ASSOCIATION CASE.

Action was brought by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) as trustee of the bankrupt estate of Kwok Pai-chi, to recover from the Tai On Chan firm the sum of \$600, alleged to be due by them to the bankrupt's estate in respect of a money loan association. Mr. Davidson (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) for the defendants.

His Lordship (to Mr. Davidson)—I would like to know what *locus standi* your client has? This money is not due to the estate?

Mr. Davidson—I submit it is.

His Lordship—An outside creditor cannot claim this loan association money. It has nothing to do with the general creditors.

Mr. Davidson—I submit each member of the Association made a separate contract with the promoter, and I submit this money is part of the bankrupt's estate.

His Lordship—You mean to say an outside creditor for goods sold and delivered is entitled to share in it?

Mr. Davidson—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, you certainly cannot deliver it to them. It is in his hands to distribute among members. They pay subscriptions each month, and he takes the discount as profit. It is not part of the general estate; in fact, it is not the property of the bankrupt at all.

Mr. Davidson—I submit the general creditors are entitled to share.

His Lordship—The object of an association of this sort is to benefit the promoter. When a man or woman gets into difficulties, he or she starts a loan association. The trustee is acting for the general creditors, but the only people who can share in this money are the subscribers to the association. I think it has nothing to do with the trustee in bankruptcy.

Mr. Davidson—I submit the trustee is entitled to sue unless the defendant shows that he is a trustee. I submit the onus is on him to do that.

His Lordship—I am not going to decide that point just now. I will adjourn the case until Friday.

GINGER AND CUSTOM.

Dang Chee, Sen and Co., proceeded against the Yau Loong firm for an amount alleged to be due as losses sustained by the plaintiffs in connection with a contract made by the defendants to supply 200 casks of ginger. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Moon, Looker and Deacon) for the defendants.

Mr. Goldring said there had been dealings between the two firms for a considerable time with respect to ginger of certain brands. The question that would arise in this case was whether the goods were inferior and not according to sample. His clients contended that the custom among the Chinese in Hongkong was to accept the report of a qualified surveyor in London on this point, and to make deductions where it was reported that the goods were inferior in quantity or quality. In the event of his Lordship deciding that these surveyor's reports were not acceptable he must ask for a commission to England. It seemed to him that it would be a very serious thing if export firms had to send home in cases of this sort. He submitted that it was absolutely clear that the ginger was of inferior quality.

His Lordship—I should like to hear some evidence on the other side as to surveyors' reports. I act on them every day of my life, and I don't see why I should go back on myself.

Mr. Atkinson—This report is addressed to somebody entirely unknown to us. It is dated months after the ginger arrived in England.

Tang Chee said he was up till December 31st managing partner of the plaintiff firm. He entered into a contract with the defendants for the purchase of 200 casks of ginger. The ginger was consigned to London. The consignees complained about the quality of the ginger, and on receipt of these complaints he spoke to the defendant firm. They replied—"Get a report from London about it." Witness wrote home, and received the report produced from his firm's agents.

Mr. Atkinson objected to the report going in as evidence. It was not addressed to any of the parties in the action.

In reply to his Lordship witness said the report was sent to his firm's agents in London.

Mr. Atkinson said the ginger was despatched in September, and it must have arrived in London in the ordinary course of events early in November, and the report was dated six months after that.

His Lordship—I will tell you at once that this report, as it stands, is not evidence.

Mr. Atkinson—I might also state that this report is a report by the plaintiffs' surveyors.

Mr. Goldring contended that it was the custom in Hongkong to accept these reports.

Mr. Atkinson—I submit it cannot be the custom unless it is agreed to.

His Lordship—If they say the stuff is inferior they must prove it, and one of the best ways is to get expert proof.

Mr. Goldring said he had asked the other side to admit a certain document, and they would not consent. He was now forced to send a commission home, and the whole expense, he contended, would fall on the other side.

His Lordship—If he loses.

Mr. Atkinson said the report was only the evidence of one set of surveyors, but it was absolutely necessary to have evidence on both sides.

Mr. Goldring—I say the expense falls on the other side. The expense of proving the fact must fall on them.

His Lordship—If you win you will get your costs. I had better adjourn the matter for six months. You will have to make your application for a commission in the ordinary way.

Mr. Goldring—I will apply in Chambers.

Wednesday, January 15th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LI CHI-CHIN'S AFFAIRS.

In the matter of Li Chi-chin, appellant, and Leung Shun-hing and another, respondents. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appear-

ed for the appellant, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, and by Mr. F. X. d'Almada Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) for the respondents.

Mr. Slade stated that leave had been given to appeal to the Full Court from a decision of Mr. Justice Wise in Summary Jurisdiction in which he decided on the evidence then before him that the appellant was a partner in the T k Li Lung firm with a man named Lau Hing-pong. In the Court below Lau Hing-pong admitted being a partner in the firm, and judging from his Lordship's notes, gave his evidence in a decidedly unsatisfactory manner. He produced a series of books, which he said were the books of his firm and in which Li Chi-chin's name appeared again and again as "Li Chi-chin, partner." The summary case was one for a small sum only, and had to be heard quickly. Although Li Chi-chin denied he was a partner and said he had never had anything to do with this firm, yet his Lordship could do nothing but say "Here are the books, you have not proved them to be forgeries" and give judgment accordingly. That judgment was followed by a series of judgments amounting in all to about \$24,000. The issue therefore as to whether or not this man was a partner was of very serious moment to him, and Counsel proposed first of all to refer to the evidence given in the Court below. Then he would ask leave to call fresh evidence as to the books.

The Chief Justice—Were the judgments in any of the cases given by consent?

The Puisne Judge—I cannot say they were given by consent, but in all the cases in which judgment was given execution was stayed pending the appeal.

The Chief Justice—Why I asked the question was this: there may be technical difficulties in the way with regard to the appeal, but it may be possible to re-try the case as an original action.

Mr. Slade—That would be difficult without the consent of the plaintiffs.

Mr. Pollock—They are all summary claims.

Mr. Slade—Assuming your Lordship's judgment in our favour. The course taken would be to apply to the plaintiff and ask them to consent to judgment being given against them. If they did not, we could then apply under the powers the Court has, for leave to appeal.

The Chief Justice—I think it was understood that this appeal would govern all the other cases.

The Puisne Judge—I intended it to.

Mr. Slade—Technical difficulties would be entirely surmounted by an application for leave to appeal, although out of time, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case.

The Chief Justice—You still might try the question in another action.

Mr. Slade—We are in a much better position on the appeal, and as I have submitted, the evidence on which the decision must have rested must have been the books. All the books, some twenty, are in the custody of the Court, and five or six of these were put in as evidence in the Court below. The first thing that strikes one on examination of those books is that the whole lot are written in the same handwriting. On going into the contents of the books it will be seen that on June 29th, a few days before the firm failed, Lau Hing-pong issued 18 promissory notes to various people for a very large sum of money.

Mr. Pollock—I think I must take this point. My friend is not entitled to go into any matter of fresh evidence. The only way he would be entitled to go into fresh evidence would be by formal notice of motion filed, and supported by an affidavit. The Court cannot take cognizance of any other entries in the books than those previously referred to.

The Puisne Judge—All the entries could not have been referred to before me in the chief case. I should imagine some would refer to cases in which I have given judgment since.

The Chief Justice—The Court can look at the books and draw its own conclusions.

Mr. Pollock—The Court cannot look at them to say whether they do, or do not, contain certain entries, because the Court would have to have the evidence of some translator to say what those additional entries in the books referred to.

The Chief Justice—Cannot the Court make use of its own officers?

Mr. Pollock—I submit not, my Lord. Supposing the Court through its officers found certain entries, and upon the strength of those entries gave judgment one way or the other; I don't think that could possibly be the correct method of procedure.

The Chief Justice—What puzzles me is the distinction between the fresh argument and the fresh evidence.

Mr. Pollock—The fresh argument would be upon the evidence already given; but fresh evidence is the introduction of new facts to form the foundation for still further arguments which could not have been made upon the evidence as it was taken in the Court below.

The Chief Justice—The ground on which I gave my assent for leave to appeal, was undoubtedly that further evidence would be given.

Mr. Pollock—Has your Lordship decided *in absentia* that fresh evidence shall be admitted?

The Chief Justice—That was the ground; I could not do anything else. It may be necessary to put the thing in more strict shape.

Mr. Pollock—Your Lordship asked Dr. Ho Kai if he wanted a new trial in the matter, and he said he did not.

The Chief Justice—That was at the very beginning; there was some technical objection at the outset.

Mr. Slade—The position with regard to appeals in the summary court is not regulated by the Code, but by the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance of 1873. I understood that your Lordships would hear what fresh evidence there was to be heard, and allow witnesses to be called, if necessary.

The Puisne Judge—There was an offer made, which you did not accept, to rehear the case then and there.

Mr. Slade—Yes, but we were not then ready with our evidence.

The Puisne Judge—I don't mean on the same day. An offer was made that a different judge should rehear the case.

Mr. Slade—I understand there was a technical objection with regard to that. I do not see how that could be done, as an appeal must be by the Ordinance, and to the Full Court.

The Chief Justice—The question is whether there ought to be some special application to the Court to allow fresh evidence to be called.

Mr. Pollock—There must be an application, and that must be supported by an affidavit to express the nature of the evidence.

The Chief Justice—What has been the previous practice?

Mr. Pollock could not cite a similar case.

The Chief Justice—Then we must settle what the practice is going to be.

Mr. Slade—The respondents will get the same protection as if the case was coming on for hearing before the Court for the first time. They have the advantage that instead of the onus of proof being on them it is on us. We are prepared to show conclusively that these books are forgeries from beginning to end, of a most outrageous description. The other side want to keep us to the evidence we could have collected in seven days. They want to shut out evidence.

The Chief Justice—This is an *ex parte* application for leave to appeal. I should have thought there would have been some further application to the Court for definite leave to produce evidence.

Mr. Slade—Your Lordship could have ordered that.

The Chief Justice—It seems to me that the party who wants a rehearing should give the Court some notion of what this new evidence is before we plunge into a rehearing. I have no case before me at present that would induce me to grant a rehearing.

Mr. Slade—What I was submitting is this: Dr. Ho Kai stated we wanted a rehearing—

The Chief Justice—No grounds were given.

Mr. Slade—We want to present the case more fully than in the Court below.

The Chief Justice—But if we hear the defendants we will have to hear the plaintiff's case again.

Mr. Slade—It does not necessarily mean that you have got to go through the whole thing from beginning to end.

The Chief Justice—We must settle the practice now.

Mr. Pollock—I think your Lordships will find that the practice has been to give some notice to the other side.

The Chief Justice—I think we see our way clearly to make a very definite practice. An application for leave to appeal is made *ex parte*, then, when a case comes on as it comes on now, a case has to be presented to the Court which will enable the Court to exercise its discretion. Discretion as in section 35 either to deal with the case solely on the evidence originally taken, or to re-examine any witness originally examined, or admit further evidence or try the case *de novo*. Then, when any evidence is presented by the appellants, the Court decides what practice it shall adopt in the future. So that what we have got to do now is to hear the case Mr. Slade has got to put forward, on which we shall decide what course we shall take at the next hearing. You will get notice whether we will try the case *de novo*, take fresh evidence, or re-examine the witnesses.

Mr. Pollock—Do your Lordships hold that is the correct procedure; without any affidavit being on the file?

The Chief Justice—We don't think any affidavits are necessary. We will decide what form the case shall take hereafter.

Mr. Slade—I am prepared to prove that the whole of these books from beginning to end are in the same handwriting, and it is apparent on the face of them that they were written out in large blocks at one sitting.

The Chief Justice—How many books are there?

Mr. Slade—Over twenty. Proceeding, Counsel referred their Lordships to various entries which threw a strong suspicion on the genuineness of the books. First of all, wherever Li Chi-chin's name appeared, it was always put down as "Li Chi-chin, partner," and so was his wife's. Those books were not written in that way for home consumption only. Obviously those entries were put in for a purpose; they were not mere bookkeeping, or put there for the information of the firm. Counsel would show that on June 29th, a few days before the firm closed, eighteen promissory notes were issued to various women. These notes, though all payable on demand on the face of the book, purported to be renewals. In several instances items in the books were not correct, and transactions said to have taken place never took place. Mr. Slade would prove from the mouth of an expert accountant who had been through the books and balanced them, that they were incorrect. The balance was shown on the face of the books as \$1,50; as a matter of fact, on adding it up, it came to \$399. There was a curious entry in the books which showed that \$3000 had been paid by Li Chi-chin as capital on a certain date. Fifteen days later he was shown to have received interest on that money. The next point he wished to raise was that the handwriting on the covers of the books was not the same as the writing inside. The man who wrote the covers of the books, and who refused to write the inside, would be called. He was taken to a house by Lau Hing-pong, where he found two sets of books, one old and one new. When asked to write on the covers of the new books in the same way as the writing on the old, he wished to know why they were so particular, and was informed that the new set of books was for the inspectors of the Court (Sanitary Commissioners). Then he was asked to draw out a partnership agreement between Lau Hing-pong and Li Chi-chin but refused to do so unless he got instructions from Li Chi-chin. He was again sent for a few days before the case came on for hearing in the Summary Court, and asked to re-write the covers of two books which had been spoiled, and he would describe what steps Lau Hing-pong took to make these new books look old.

Their Lordships decided that the case should be tried *de novo* on a date to be fixed by the Court.

Certain British merchants recently asked the Waiwupu, through the British Minister, for permission to develop certain gold mines at Langfushan in Shantung province. It is reported that it is improbable that the Waiwupu will comply with the request.

Thursday, January 16th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE BROKEN CHARTER.

In the matter of the Lombard & Co., appellants, and Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., respondents. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the appellants, and the Hon. Mr. H. F. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the respondents.

Sir Henry Berkeley moved formally for leave to appeal to the Privy Council from the judgment delivered by his Lordship the Chief Justice in the case of Carlowitz & Co. against the Lombard & Co. on the usual terms, the appellants paying the costs.

Leave was granted on costs being paid, and security given as required by the rules.

THE WATOW REFORMER.

In the matter of Lu Kai-shing alias In Chan, and in the matter of the Chinese Extradition Ordinance No. 7 of 1899. Hon. Mr. W. R. Davies Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell from the Crown Solicitor's office, appeared on behalf of the Crown, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the prisoner.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that there had been filed on behalf of the fugitive from China, Lu Kai-shing, who was detained in Victoria Jail, a notice of appeal from a decision of Mr. Justice Wise refusing an application for *habeas corpus*. There had been concurrently filed a substantive notice of motion before the Court in its original jurisdiction to grant *habeas corpus*. It would be for him to satisfy the Court that the procedure was regular, that the Court had the power to entertain the appeal, and also that it had the power alternately to entertain the motion for *habeas corpus*. As Counsel intended to raise questions which he had not raised on the appeal, most important and far reaching points, he would prefer their Lordships to treat the matter as a motion for the granting of a rule for *habeas corpus*. He could then bring before the Full Court points he had not submitted to the individual judges.

The Attorney-General—Perhaps I had better shorten matters by saying I shall contend that no appeal lies in this procedure.

The Puisne Judge—Because it is criminal?

The Attorney-General—Yes, and furthermore I shall contend that your Lordships have no power to grant a rule of discharge.

The Chief Justice—Is not that governed by what took place in the other *habeas corpus* case; the case of seven witnesses? I think we will leave it to the Attorney-General to substantiate his point.

Sir Henry Berkeley—As for the motion for *habeas corpus*, I will refer you to Mr. Jackson. I want to do as was done in that case, move the Court *alte* *modo*.

The Puisne Judge—It comes to this; that you can move for a *habeas corpus* in any Court in the Colony?

Sir Henry Berkeley—That is so. It is laid down that a man has the right to go to every Court in the realm, including the Appeal Court.

The Chief Justice—Are you going to press this point, Mr. Attorney? If so, we ought to hear you.

The Attorney-General—I should like to say something on both points.

The Chief Justice—I am with you we should not hear Sir Henry Berkeley further.

The Attorney-General submitted that no appeal lay in this case from the decision of the learned judge discharging the rule. This was tantamount to an appeal from a criminal trial. The magistrate, under the extradition Ordinance, committed the fugitive criminal, and the learned judge was asked to make a rule absolute reversing the decision on a criminal matter of the Court below.

The Chief Justice—The test of a criminal matter would be whether a discharge was equivalent to an acquittal.

The Attorney-General—Assuming the learned judge had made a rule absolute, it would have been tantamount to an acquittal of the

prisoner. I may say at once I am merely taking this point because I regard it my duty to do so.

The Chief Justice—You contend that on a discharge on *habeas corpus* no further application for extradition can be made.

The Attorney-General—Not in respect of that offence. The case quoted by Sir Henry Berkeley had no bearing on the subject. It would apply in the case of the Full Court hearing an application in the first instance. In this instance the application was not made to the Full Court at first.

The Court decided that there was an appeal.

Sir Henry Berkeley then read the declaration of Lu Kai-shing in support of his motion to the Court for *habeas corpus*, and raised the point that the warrant issued by the Chinese should have been more precise. The prisoner was charged with armed robbery within the jurisdiction of China. That was a warrant which no magistrate could issue for the arrest of a British subject, and if he did, it would be quashed. On such a warrant it would be possible to prove anything later on, and if only given sufficient inducement there would be witnesses to come forward. On the warrant there was nothing to show who it was the prisoner was supposed to have robbed, where it was the man committed the offence, or when.

The Chief Justice—Under section 10 a magistrate has to commit if the evidence is such as would justify his committal for trial at the Supreme Court. Does that carry with it the necessity that the warrant should be in the same form?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes, my Lord. There must be the same precision and particularity in a warrant under extradition proceedings as in other proceedings. This man has been in Jail since June 24th, and it is now January 16th.

The Chief Justice—That is a very important question.

Sir Henry Berkeley put it to their Lordships that the Court tried everything in *favourum liberatus*. A man could not be arrested on a warrant charging him with armed robbery in the British Empire, and people be brought to say that he robbed them some months previously in Sydney. What Court would listen to such an allegation as that? What possible means of defence had a man on such a warrant? The danger was apparent at once. Here on June 24th there was a reward out for the prisoner as a rebel leader, and later he is arrested on a charge of armed robbery because it was known that the British Government would not extradite a rebel. This Court ought, by discharging the prisoner, to show its disapprobation of the issuing of such warrants by which persons are to be deprived of their liberty. Another objection which he wished to raise was a very serious matter, as it put the Court in a position in which it would have to decide the validity of a Colonial Ordinance, and there was no doubt that the Supreme Court of every Colony had the power to do that. Not only had it the power, but it was the Court's duty to pronounce definitely upon the validity, if the question of validity was raised. The Colonial Legislature of Hongkong as such, had no jurisdiction beyond the territorial limits of the Colony. Unless such validity were given it by the Imperial Government, as in the case of the Merchant Shipping Act, the Colonial Legislature was subordinate to its charter, and could only legislate within the limits described by the charter and "for the peace, good order, and good government of Hongkong, within the limits of the territory of Hongkong." He submitted that the Ordinance which provided for an offence committed beyond the limits of Hongkong, and for the deportation of such a person beyond the limits of the Colony, was obviously an excess of the powers of the Legislature.

The Chief Justice—The case is really this: there is a treaty entered into between our Sovereign and the Empire of China. The Ordinance is passed and put into operation.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The King could not, by assenting to an act of the Legislature, extend its powers beyond those conferred on it by the charter.

The Chief Justice—In a Crown Colony the King has power to legislate by Order-in-Council, and can exercise any rights he likes in that way.

Sir Henry Berkeley—In the exercise of his undoubted prerogative he must legislate only for "the peace, order and good government of Hongkong."

The Chief Justice—He has absolute power.

Sir Henry Berkeley—He cannot legislate in Hongkong for Jamaica or Singapore.

The Chief Justice—I agree with you thus far; that the Ordinance is not within the powers of the Legislative Council.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It is on an Ordinance assumed by the Legislative Council that this man is now in prison.

The Chief Justice—That is where I do not agree with you. The basis of this Ordinance is a treaty made in virtue of the King's prerogative, quite independent of the powers of the Legislative Council.

Sir Henry Berkeley contended that there had been no legislation by the King in his Privy Council. An interesting case had been decided on that point in New Zealand. Assuming that the King could legislate by Order-in-Council for Hongkong, had he done so in fact in respect to the Treaty of Tientsin. Counsel submitted that his Majesty must exercise his power with the advice of the Privy Council, and further, that His Majesty could only legislate within the charter.

The Chief Justice—Can the King limit his own prerogative?

Sir Henry Berkeley—I have no hesitation in submitting that the Sovereign, having once granted a charter to his people, is bound by his charter.

The Puisne Judge—Suppose you go further. Can he go outside it?

Sir Henry Berkeley—He is bound by the charter which he has granted in his graciousness.

The Chief Justice—I am certain it is laid down that the King cannot limit his own prerogative.

Sir Henry Berkeley pointed out that the charter represented the people's liberty. He submitted that the King had not, as a fact, legislated by Order-in-Council in regard to the Extradition Ordinance, and that the Legislative Council had no power to pass such an ordinance. There was no legislative authority existing in Hongkong by which effect could be given to the Treaty of Tientsin. The assent of the King to go outside the authority of the Legislative Council did not make valid that which was invalid. That point had been expressly decided in New Zealand.

The Chief Justice—The Court will express an opinion on the points raised later.

ANOTHER CHINESE CRIME.

Another of these stories of armed robbery, so prevalent in China, was told to Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on January 14th, when Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, on behalf of the Chinese Government, applied for the extradition of one, Ho Chan.

Mr. Hanson informed his Worship that two of the witnesses hired an orchard in the Sam Hoi district. Their house, which adjoined the orchard, was visited on the morning of February 14th by the defendant, who was accompanied by six men armed with revolvers. The door of the house was broken in, and the first witness to be called would say that the defendant caught him by the throat, and asked why he had not paid the \$300 that had been arranged should be paid some time previously. This was a case of blackmail, and the robbers visited the house because the money had not been paid. On this occasion the defendant told the inmates they would be killed if they failed to carry out their promise. The robbers then proceeded to ransack the house, and carted off \$80 in money and a quantity of clothing. Before leaving they also reminded the inmates that the \$300 must be paid within two days. The inmates, becoming frightened, left the district, and went to their respective homes.

Evidence was called, and the hearing adjourned.

Receipts into the Treasury between January 1st and October 31, 1907, totalled \$11,97,288.47. Payments out during the same period amount to \$11,01,266.21. Payments therefore exceed receipts by \$4,06,774.

INDIAN TRAGEDY AT KOWLOON.

MYSTERIOUS NIGHT IN CAMP.

Before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, and Messrs. E. J. Moses, B. M. ri and P. H. Nya, jurors, an inquiry was held at the Magistracy on Jan. 10 into the circumstances of the death of a private of the 129th Baluchis, Wazir Khan, who died in Barracks at Kowloon on the 27th ultimo.

Abdullah Khan was the first witness. In the match in which he was quartered in barracks, he said, there were about 24 persons. He was senior officer there, and on the night of December 26th he went to sleep at about 9.45 p.m. Witness knew the wounded man in Court, Mahomed Khan. He was in the match that night. Witness was awakened at about 4.15 on the following morning, when he heard Mahomed Khan calling out "hi hi." Then all the men in the shed arose, and some one said they should repeat their prayers. He said his Kalma, something the Baluchis repeated in case of accident or trouble at night. There was then a dim light in the room. On hearing the noise about six or seven men from another match entered. Witness was lying on his bed at the time, and said: "Brothers, the young man might become frightened."

Mr. Gompertz—Who did you mean by the young man?

Witness—Mahomed Khan.

Proceeding, witness said it appeared to him that Mahomed Khan went on his knees near But Khan, and the latter put his hand on his head and repeated the Kalma. In response to a call for a light Mahomed Khan got up, and walked towards Mahomed Khan's bed. The latter then got up, and fell against the bed of Abasa Khan. When the witness saw the former leaning against the bed of the latter he was surprised, and on approaching Abasa Khan's bed he saw blood on the floor and on Abasa's face. While standing there he heard a sound similar to that made by a cat, under the bed of Mahomed Khan. Someone was then sent for the Jamindar. There was an African from another company in the match. A man belonging to another company had no right to be in the match occupied by witness's company.

How is it that as senior man in the match you did not go forward and inquire what was taking place? I was greatly surprised to see Mahomed Khan by the other man's bed.

What was it that brought the men in from the other matches?—Mahomed Khan calling out "hi hi."

And you thought that was a nightmare?—Yes.

Do you remember telling the police you heard a gurgling noise by Mahomed Khan's bed, and saw a man lying alongside it with his throat cut?—I did not tell the Police that. That was what Mahomed Khan saw.

Further evidence was heard, and the inquiry adjourned.

THE SHAKUWAN BURGLAR.

POLICE SERGEANT'S CONDUCT RECOGNISED.

Some weeks ago an account of a desperate struggle between Lance Sergeant Fowler and a Chinese burglar at Shaukiwan was published in these columns, and it was then reported that it would probably be some weeks before the burglar would be sufficiently well to face the Court. On Jan. 14th he was placed before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on three charges of burglary, and on a charge of assaulting Sergeant Fowler while in the execution of his duty. His Worship, on the evidence, found the charges proved and sentenced the prisoner to six months imprisonment on each of the charges of burglary, the sentences to run concurrently; and on the charge of assault the prisoner was sentenced to a further six months imprisonment, the sentence to be consecutive.

His Worship then strongly commended Lance Sergeant Fowler for sticking to his prisoner in spite of the injuries inflicted upon him, and said he would see that a report of the police man's conduct was forwarded to the Government.

ROUND THE WORLD STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

THE CHARGEURS REUNIS LINERS.

At the end of next week the *Malte*, the first of the new liners ordered by the Chargeurs Réunis Company for a round-the-world service, is due to reach Hongkong. The Chargeurs Réunis, one of the largest of French steamship enterprises, decided to build special steamers for the service and the *Malte*, the first to be completed, has only recently left the builders' hands after a very satisfactory trial trip. She is a twin-screw steamer, of 15,800 tons gross, and designed to carry 9,600 tons of cargo and 57 first-class passengers. Her dimensions are: length over all, 591 ft.; beam, 55 ft. 8 inches, and moulded depth, 36 ft. 11 inches. Her propelling machinery, consisting of two sets of triple-expansion engines, has a maximum strength of 8,500 horse-power. She is fitted with six large single-ended boilers, and she developed on her trial trip a speed of 16.6 knots. She is equipped with all the most up-to-date appliances for handling cargo, including 18 winches and 21 derricks capable of lifting weights of 4 tons.

As already mentioned, the *Malte* has accommodation for 57 first-class passengers, and every attention has been paid in the design of the ship to afford all possible comfort to passengers. The cabins, which are well situated, are supplied with steam-heaters as well as electric fans. Fourteen are double-berth cabins on the upper deck, each having two large port holes, so that they are well ventilated. The dimensions of these cabins are given as 3 m. 5 by 3 m. 25, and 2 m. 4 high. On the main deck there are 26 single-berth cabins. Each cabin has a large square window and is well ventilated. Two passengers travelling together may easily adjoining cabins having interior communication by a door. Six single-berth cabins on the main deck are so designed, forming the sun-lounges. The single-berth cabins measure 2 m. 5 by 2 m. 25 and are 2 m. 4 high. Each cabin is provided with a mattress, a writing table, a wardrobe and a settee. In the double-berth cabins the berths are not fitted one above the other. There are two cabins on the upper deck in which partitions give special toilet accommodation.

The dining room on the promenade deck has eight tables which will accommodate sixty-four persons. A comfortable library is also situated on the promenade deck; it is fitted with writing tables and a piano. Writing tables as well as tables for playing are likewise provided in the smoking room which has a direct entrance from the upper deck. In the design of these ships the constructor has kept the fact well in view that the vessels are intended for navigation in tropical climates, and in the arrangement of the stowage as well as the cabins every attention has been paid to details likely to promote the comfort of passengers. The luggage room is situated close to the cabins, and other accommodation includes a hair-dressing salon, a laundry, and a dark room for photographic purposes. A word should also be said as to the sanitary arrangements which are of the most approved type. Many of the bath rooms are fitted with shower sprays, and several are specially reserved for ladies. On the promenade deck passengers are provided with movable long chairs, and the two decks give an entirely covered area of 600 meters. The life-saving appliances comprise besides a sufficient number of life-belts to distribute to each passenger, fourteen sunbath-stools and six life-rafts.

The voyage of the *Malte* and the sister ships now building will be from Antwerp, via Dunkirk, Suez Canal, Singapore, Hongkong, Shanghai, Chingwantao (where passengers may disembark and proceed by rail to Tientsin and Peking), Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu, San Francisco, South America, Magellan Straits and back to Europe via Buenos Ayres and Mauritius. To commence, a steamer will leave every 15 days, and should the enterprise of the company be rewarded with the success anticipated the service will be a more frequent one. The Agent of the Chargeurs Réunis in Hongkong is M. J. Milet, the Agent of the Messageries Maritimes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TROUT AT HONGKONG.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th January.

SIR,—It may interest you to learn that His Excellency the Governor having decided to try the experiment of stocking some of the Reservoirs with trout, a consignment of the ova of trout is expected shortly from the hatches of the Canadian Government.

If any of your readers have had experience of hatching out ova of trout perhaps they would be good enough to call on the Colonial Secretary.

Yours truly,

F. H. MAY,

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I see by your paper that the public of Hongkong is to have Christian Science expounded authoritatively at an imminent lecture. I hope it will be expounded lucidly as well, in plain words bearing a plain literal meaning. Hitherto I have found it difficult to get Christian Scientists to talk English. For instance, I would like a plain answer to this plain question.

A Christian Scientist (mal-) undertakes to "treat" a man for cancer in the jaw. The said Christian Scientist is clean shaven. Wherein does the difference consist, between two days stubble on one chin, and a cancerous growth on another, from the Christian Science point of view? Putting it still more plainly, why is the Christian Scientist's razor to be recommended, and the surgeon's knife not?

Further, if the coming lecturer insists that physical pain is a delusion, as I understand he will, may I, before the audience, stick a hat-pin into his leg? I would willingly do it when he is not looking, so as not to delude him. Finally, may I assure you that I am not merely "scoffing"? The foregoing is not meant to be jocular; I really desire to know.—Yours truly,

AN UNSCIENTIFIC CHRISTIAN.

[Perhaps some Christian-Scientist will answer our correspondent, "in plain English."—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—When one man says "we cure disease," when another man says "there is no such thing as disease," and when a third man tells us that the other two have not contradicted each other, what is the matter with a poor engineer's brains that he cannot savvy?—Yours respectfully,

QUARRY BAY.

[Please do not worry. Your brains are all right.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I also have a good story for you, which has the additional merit of being new and vouched for. A local "Christian-Science Healer" was giving evidence at one of the Hongkong courts this week, and in taking the oath he was seen to carefully open the Bible, pick a clean page, and kiss that. As he and his fellow members are understood to have no objection to the Scriptures, it must have been microbes he was afraid of.—Yours truly,

SINN FEIN.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—It seems to me that with your devotion to pure reason you are being guilty of the same fault as your friends the enemy, that of "over-emphasising a half truth." There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy, or pure reason. Is not imagination as inseparable an attribute of "human consciousness" as reason? Reason is not always trustworthy. If you stand in Pedder Street facing the Clock Tower and move the skin at the corner of your left eye with your

finger, you can actually see the Hongkong Hotel dance. Also, if a marine engine of say 8 h.p. makes a small launch go at 7 knots speed, reason tells you that an engine of 16 h.p. would make the same boat go at 14 knots, which is not so. You cannot prove that "Christian Science" is an error.—Yours truly,

LONG FUNNEL.

Reason tells that the Hongkong Hotel stands still (or, at least most of it) and reason in a marine engineer saves him from such an unreasonable calculation as this one of horsepower and speed. We would not reason that because a man can jump three feet high in three seconds that he could jump twenty yards high in a minute. As for "imagination," what is it? Its highest flights in art have always been empiric. To illustrate crudely, what is called the faculty of imagination has given us angels and dragons. The first are merely a composite picture of a woman, a frock, and a bird; the second are composites of various known animals. The mermaid also is not a "product" of imagination, but a patchwork of inadequate reasoning, like "Christian Science."—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—You said on Tuesday morning that "One of the two gentlemen stated that 'Christian Science' positively cures actual organic diseases; the other stated that it proves the unreality [query: non-existence?] of such ills, and quoted Mrs. Eddy's saying that 'if you admit the presence and possibility of disease, you cannot cure it.'"

You referred to these statements as "apparently" contradictory. Mr. Kingsbury answers in to day's issue that "there is no contradiction in the statements." What have you to say to that?—Yours truly,

AMUSED.

[Nothing. "Plus de mots inutiles."—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, January 11th.

SIR,—It is intimated in your article this morning re Christian Science Lecture that no questioning will be allowed. This seems unfortunate, as the subject is more or less of a controversial character and if Mr. Fluno refuses to give a chance of information to enquiries it looks much like evasion on his part. It would no doubt be interesting to his hearers to learn something regarding the credentials and personality of the originator of the movement, Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy. No healthy plant can spring from a diseased root, and the character of the founder of a sect enters largely into the aspect in which such sect is viewed from outside. Mark Twain calls Mrs. Eddy a "shameless old swindler" and Mark Twain is no mean authority. I have in my possession a pamphlet written by a Boston lawyer, a Mr. Peabody, in which Mrs. Eddy is remorselessly criticised. Mr. Fluno ought to enlighten us on this matter.—Yours etc.,

C. V. LLOYD.

[Apparently our correspondent is not a "Christian Scientist," and we hope to hear from the other side. We have omitted a passage from the above letter, giving details of the Peabody pamphlet which appears to have been of a libellous character.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Though not an admitted member of the Christian Church Scientific, I am studying its propaganda attentively. May I suggest that you have overlooked the metaphysical point of the C.S. position with regard to things material and immaterial? Disease &c. is objectively unreal, as I understand them, and mind, soul, or spirit is the only reality. But a subjective belief in an objective unreality gives the latter, so to say, sufficient power to affect the reality, and in that sense matter (though really non-existent) affects mind. Mind treatment, therefore, on C.S. lines, abolishes the shadowy something that you call matter, with its material ailments, and so the influence of mind purifies itself, and heal what was really, in C.S. eyes, a material hallucination, which, to a doctor sharing the hallucination, would seem a tangible organic growth.—Yours truly,

SEEKER.

This is ingenious; but it is far older than "Christian Science." It is the "cow in the meadow" problem of our undergraduate days. To the "Christian Scientist," free of the hallucination, the obvious cancer was healed, removed, gone. Was it no longer visible to the doctor, still "sharing the hallucination"?—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I can't say that I take much interest in this question either way, but as I note a correspondence is starting in your excellent journal, I have a little story that seems to me sufficiently apt to offer your readers.

On the point of reality versus unreality, it seems to have an amusing bearing. A man-addicted to alcoholic excess, and by no means a stranger to "delirium tremens," was in the company of some waggish friends. He was as sober as he ever was, but when a rat, surreptitiously released in the room, ran across the floor, he looked at them cunningly, and, pointing to the animal, said: "You may think I see a rat, but I don't. It isn't really there."—Yours truly,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—If Christian Science were still in its infancy and its claims to favourable recognition still unproven, the alarm and doubt expressed on the subject in your columns would be most natural.

Christian Science has, however, been before the public for the last forty years. In steadily increasing proportions it has spread and is spreading throughout the entire civilized world, and to-day hundreds of thousands of people of all classes and nationalities gladly testify to the fact that the study of its teachings has brought to them a health and happiness hitherto unknown.

The idea that Christian Science is only efficacious in the case of nervous diseases, has long ago been shown to be an exploded theory. Every sort of organic disease has been and can be absolutely and entirely cured by the understanding of Christian Science. The fact that some 75 per cent of its adherents only turned to Christian Science for help as a last resort when every human agency had been tried in vain, and from a state of hopeless invalidism have been restored to healthy and useful lives, this fact alone should give cause for thought to those who ignorantly deny its teachings.

In reply to some of the points raised I could reply:—

(1) The object of the Lecture is, not to make converts, but to remove the prevalent misconceptions that exist as to the teachings of Christian Science. In Doctor Fluno (formerly a Doctor of Medicine) we shall have a man eminently qualified to deal with the subject lucidly and "in plain English."

I would assure your correspondents that during his stay in Hongkong every opportunity will be given to enquirers to interview Dr. Fluno and obtain answers to their questions. At the same time it is obviously impossible that with the time at disposal, discussion could be allowed either during or at the close of the lecture. Lectures on Christian Science take place throughout America and Europe, and during the past year, have been delivered to overflowing audiences in the Albert Hall and Queen's Hall London. Yet at none of these lectures were discussions asked for, and the reason for this will be apparent to anyone who is at all acquainted with the amount of explanation required for the discussion of any metaphysical subject. Meanwhile I would refer any would-be enquirers to the Christian Science Reading Room, York Building, Chater Road, Hongkong, which is open for the use of enquirers every Monday evening from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. and after the Sunday and Wednesday services.

(2) As regards calling in doctors for young children I would state that Christian Scientists are, before all things, law-abiding, and where the law requires that a Doctor be called in for children under a certain age, they loyally obey.

(3) The very reasonable query raised by your correspondent "Unscientific Christian" involves, I am sorry to say, too much metaphysical discussion for the columns of a daily newspaper,

but I shall be very pleased to explain the matter verbally if he cares to make an appointment.

(4) As regards the question about Mrs. Eddy, I can only say that Mark Twain's unwarranted and unmanly attack on an aged and highly respected woman has not only been refuted but has aroused the protest of every right minded man and woman acquainted with Mrs. Eddy's life and works. Her entire life has been devoted to the good of others, in spite of which, like every other great leader of thought, she has constantly been made the object of misrepresentation and slander.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, who have lately visited her home, would gladly testify to the quiet simplicity of her surroundings while the love and respect accorded to her by all classes of the town of Concord near which she lives, effectually confute the old saying that "a prophet is not without honour save in his own country."—I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant.

H. F. T. FISHER, MAJOR
Army Service Corps.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—I am obliged to Major Fisher for the courteous reference to my "very reasonable" query, and in return should say that while I have never yet got any of my Christian Scientist acquaintances to "talk English," I have usually found them very patient and good-tempered, in fact, good Christians. This is distinctly in their favour, that they avoid the "odium theologicum" in the way they do. I am sorry, however, that Major Fisher shies the answering of my simple question. Surely it is capable of a brief answer in plain English, or plain metaphysical English. I cannot accept his kind offer of a personal appointment and explanation, and trust he will see the advisability of answering the question as publicly as it was put. May I simplify it for him? Is there any real reason why the Christian Science "treatment" of a case of cancer in the jaw should not be as efficacious to remove two days' stubble on the chin? Surely that does not require "too much metaphysical discussion"?—Yours truly.

UNSCIENTIFIC CHRISTIAN.

[This is certainly the shrewdest pincer we have so far had, and we offer any competent "Christian Scientist" reasonable space for its answer. It may interest readers to know that the letter has reference to an actual local case.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—In answer to the long letter in this morning's paper from Major H. F. T. Fisher, I would like to say a few words.

(1) "Christian Science" has not been before the Hongkong public "for the last forty years." Until the *Daily Press* threw light on it, none of my family knew that it had any following here at all, and I personally am glad you are trying to "nip it in the bud." The notorious Dowey tried to enlist followers in this part of the world, and it is to our credit as a community that he failed.

(2) For every fad that has ever arisen, it might be argued that "hundreds of thousands of people gladly testify." That proves nothing. Look at the deluded people who write in praise of quack panaceas.

(3) I attach no importance to the statement that 75 per cent of Christian Scientists claim to have been "given up" by doctors, "when every human agency had been tried in vain." The evidence of such people needs to be supported by that of more trustworthy witnesses. Did any reputable doctor ever admit that a case "given up" by himself had subsequently been cured by "Christian Science"? I would prefer an English doctor from the medical directory.

(4) If the lecturer does not want to make converts, why should he desire to "remove prevalent misconceptions"? On the other hand, if he and his colleagues think they have got hold of a valuable truth, why do they not strive to make converts? They do hope to make converts, and have been making them, according to what I have learned lately. Their journal, of which I have seen a copy, bids members to make converts.

(5) I would like to be certain that, where the law demands the requisition of a doctor, all "Christian Scientist" parents loyally obey. How can your correspondent be sure of that? I have heard quite lately that a local adherent told a friend of mine that though she called the doctor to her children, she had not troubled to follow the treatment he prescribed.

(6) The evasion of another correspondent's query, as to why a Christian Scientist should trouble to shave, was just what I expected.

(7) How was Mark Twain's criticism "unwarranted and unmanly"? Mrs. Eddy submitted her ideas for public acceptance or refusal, at a price. As a public writer, it was Mark Twain's duty to write what he had discovered about another public writer, who, moreover, was not relying only on her literary style (like him) for support. One might as well say it is "unmanly" of an upright judge to condemn a female criminal. If Mrs. Eddy was not rich before she published her book, if she has not made money out of it, how comes it that her own relatives should have been fighting over her estate. . . .—Yours truly.

PATER FAMILIAS.

[We have omitted the end of this letter, for this reason. It cannot affect the issue at Hongkong whether Mrs. Eddy be a worthy individual or otherwise; and as she seems to be held in love and veneration by her adherents, we hope correspondents will note that we have any needless hurting of their feelings.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—You ought to point out how "ingeniously, not ingenuously" (to quote your own phrase) the Christian Science people misquote professional men when it suits them. I have been shown a Christian Science article in which the "American Physician" (written by a New York doctor) was thus misquoted.

"Dr. George J. Simpson says, 'That disease is cured by faith and prayer is so well attested that it would be foolhardy in me to contradict.' In speaking of drugs as auxiliary to other healing forces he says, 'They drugs are not, however, the sole or chief reliance of the physician. . . . Every physician is aware of the immense influence the mind exerts over the body, and when wise he utilizes this to his own renown and the patient's good.'"

This is the point. The American doctor was showing (obviously, I think) that the sound root idea of "Christian Science" was a medical property long before Christian Science was heard of; that the interdependence of mind and matter was and is recognised and acted upon by materialist doctors who regard mind as a manifestation of matter. The suggestion of the misquotation is that Dr. Simpson was admitting the Christian Science claim that "disease is cured by faith and prayer" alone—quite another thing. He probably spoke of drugs as an indispensable auxiliary.—Yours truly.

M D

[Our correspondent is not quite fair in referring to it as a "misquotation." The hiatus-dots show that only parts of the context were given, and only inattentive readers would be misled into thinking the writer a convert to Christian Science. It is almost impossible to save inattentive readers from themselves, but perhaps it would have been more sportsmanlike to try. The quotation seems to us, from a Christian Science standpoint, unfortunate, as conveying (to attentive readers) a purport quite other than that it was perhaps intended to give to the other kind.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

Dear SIR,—You must be aware that a journalist—and especially that representative of journalism, an Editor—can make most things appear ridiculous, and can easily deduce where deduction is an advantage to his argument. Such a line of attack may be perfectly sincere, and I believe that you adopted this course in all sincerity. My object in mentioning this fact is simply to point out that your leading article of this morning is a clever piece of special pleading, and no proof that Christian Science is either illogical or absurd. It is difficult, even for an Editor, to express thought in terms of logic and with the "crystalline clarity colloquially desiderated" by your cor-

respondent; but there is no contradiction in the statements which you mention as having been made to you by the two representatives of the Christian Science Society of Hongkong—of whom I was not one.

I may say that the following of Christian Science in America, England, and Australia includes a great many men who have proved their intellectual soundness at the University, in Medicine, at the Bar, in the Army and Navy, in Journalism, and in Commerce. When I assure you that I have been physically and mentally benefited by Christian Science, and that I have personal and intimate knowledge of its truths by its works, I do not wish to appear as attacking the medical profession, especially as three of my near relatives have practised medicine. With best wishes to you and other critics—Yours truly.

S. KINGSBURY.

The unvarying good temper displayed makes us regret the necessity of criticising such lovable people. The two gentlemen referred to in our last article called again yesterday, and suggested, in the friendliest possible way, that it was "hardly playing the game to base an article on a private interview." We must at once remove this error, in case it exists elsewhere. We never heard any suggestion before that the interview was to be considered private. When people call at a newspaper office to discuss anything that may have been published, it is assumed, in the absence of any request to the contrary, that the journalist concerned is being talked to with a view to further publication. Otherwise, why trouble him? These gentlemen were plainly and frankly informed at the first interview that except from a journalistic point of view, (our duty to our readers) the question at issue had no interest for the individual with whom they discussed it.—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—Are you not letting some of your correspondents get wide of the local issue so ably defined by yourself at the outset of the present agitation? Let us have something about actual local cases. I have heard that a local "healer" claims to have cured a sick cat on the Peak, and that an application (no doubt judicious) for the treatment of a China pony was refused on the ground that, being engaged in the immoral work of racing, the latter animal was not entitled to relief. Can anyone tell us about these or other local activities of the new healing art?—Yours truly.

CLEEK.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SIR,—In the scheme of the pseudo "Christian Science" it would seem as if the founder had overlooked, or not met with a certain authority of some antiquity called "The Bible," or the incongruity of naming it "Christian" would have been apparent, seeing that it directly contravenes a Christian teaching as to the relation of the mental and material. He expressly affirms in His Sermon on the Mount, that "thou canst not make one hair black or white," and further on "which of you taking thought, can add one cubit to his stature?" Perhaps it is following the French play in which the sham doctor, to cover his mistake as to the heart's position, explains, "Nous avons changé tout cela." The biblical assertion of the inability of the mind to alter fixed conditions of the body seems conclusive, that is to say, if the person responsible for the opposite claim has not, in her communion with Deity which she asserts she possesses, been favoured with later information. That is perhaps possible, as the organ of the institution "Health and Science" has gone through about 40 editions with additions and omissions, and, as it is explicitly claimed as a Divine revelation, it opens up worlds of possibilities in that direction.

By the way, your correspondent's suggestion re shaving, if the Scientists could work it up successfully, might bear practical fruit. Why not a Christian Science Barber-shop, immaterially material beards removed with imaginary razors, and payment made in similar coin? The idea is alluring. Campbell Moore & Co. Ltd. shareholders might take note of this.—Yours etc.

C. V. LLOYD.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—In response to your invitation for actual local instances of cases "treated" by "Christian Science," I deem it right to record the following facts for the accuracy of which I can vouch.

In 1903 a friend of mine returned to the Colony with his wife and family after visiting England where his wife had undergone treatment for cancer. On reaching Hongkong medical advice was sought and the Doctor taking a very serious view of the case informed the husband that he could not hold out any hope of the patient living for many months as she was suffering from malignant cancer. The Doctor continued to treat the patient who was now very ill and in the eyes of her friends palpably dying. At this stage a local "healer" intervened and gaining access to the patient succeeded in persuading her that she was not really ill. In this she was so successful that the patient who had been confined to her room went out and endeavoured to resume her ordinary life. After a time the "healer" informed the patient that she herself had not sufficient faith to effect a complete cure, especially in the face of the opposition which she met with from one of the members of the patient's family. In the result she persuaded the patient to return to England and place herself in London under the head of the Christian Science World in that City. The husband of the patient and her son opposed this proposition but finally the husband's consent was obtained. Before the patient left the Colony she was asked by the "healer" to make such contribution (in recognition of services rendered) as she could afford to the funds of the Christian Science Association to which the "healer" belonged. The sum of \$100 was paid by the patient's husband as such contribution. On arrival in London, where the patient had no friends, she took lodgings and communicated with the Christian Scientist to whose care she had been committed. She was treated by this lady for a week; when feeling extremely ill she communicated with friends in Kent who transferred her to their house and sent for the Doctor by whom she had been treated for cancer before she left England to return to Hongkong. Within a week the patient died and her medical attendant certified that her death was due to advanced cancer and to no other cause. The whole of the above recorded events happened within the space of some nine months.

It thus happened that owing to wanton interference in a case of disease which is, practically all the arguments which "Christian Scientists" can put forward, absolutely incurable (except in its early stages by surgery) not only was needless expense incurred in connection with a passage to, and maintenance in, England, but the close of the life of one who had been a devoted wife and mother was overshadowed by separation from her family and by loneliness in the hour of death in the house of a mere acquaintance.

This sad occurrence had one good effect. It opened the eyes of the bereft husband who at one time had been almost persuaded that the "healer" could cure where the Doctor pronounced cure impossible. For when he came to announce the sad intelligence of his wife's death to the writer, he explained, with tears in his sorrowing eyes, "And so it was all a humbug after all."—Yours truly,

F. H. MAY.

Hongkong, 19th January 1908.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—With reference to the request made by your correspondent "Cleck" for authoritative information of local cures by Christian Science "healers," I fear that even the younger generation will not be greatly impressed by the cat story, as doubtless many of them have sufficiently tested the old adage that "a cat has nine lives," to warrant its acceptance as a possible fact; and any who may not have reached that conclusion by the test of actual experience may have been convinced by the pictures intended to demonstrate the theory recently shown by a local cinematograph show.

But a local Christian Scientist "healer" could, if he would, relate a true and affecting little story about a dog—his own dog, fed and nurtured on Christian Science Principles (with a capital P, if you please, Mr. Printer). Unlike the China pony referred to by your correspondent, this dog led a life that did not place it beyond hope of redemption, and when it fell ill, it was treated according to the articles of the family faith. Alas! "the dog it was that died"—not the faith, which is still considered strong enough to move mountains—or in less figurative language, to work cures among the faithful outwitting those performed at Lourdes.—My sympathies lie with the dog.—Yours &c.

THE OTHER DOG.

With regard to the cat that was "healed" we have since been informed that a local practitioner took the "dead bone" from its leg before the "healer" touched it.—ED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

January 18th 1908.

SIR,—Mr. May in your issue this morning gives an authentic account of the dealings of "Christian Science" with cancer and its result. Mrs. Eddy in a published letter in the *New York Sun* some years ago definitely stated that she had healed at one visit a cancer that had so eaten in to the flesh of the neck as to expose the jugular vein so that it stood out like a cord!

Will the most credulous of her followers accept this bewildering story? It means creation, that she, by her power, built up new tissue out of nothing and reclothed the neck with flesh. If they do so, argument is useless.

I have a very enlightened pamphlet on the subject which I shall be glad to lend for perusal.—Yours etc.,

C. V. LLOYD.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MACAO.

On Jan. 12th the Portuguese gunboat "Rio Lima" brought to Hongkong His Excellency Senhor Pedro de Azavedo Coutinho, the Governor of Macao, and his wife, who are to be guests of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard during their stay in Hongkong. At about five o'clock the police escort was in readiness at Pedder's Wharf, a guard of honour from the Middlesex Regiment being drawn up on the Praya shortly after that hour. The distinguished visitors were met by Captain Mitchell-Taylor, representing His Excellency the Governor, and by the Consul and Vice-Consul for Portugal, Mr. Romano and Commendador Leiria. After the interchange of courtesies on the Portuguese gunboat the honoured guests were conveyed to Pedder's Wharf in the Government launch "Victoria." As they landed the band of the Middlesex Regiment played a stanza of the Portuguese National Anthem. Then H.E. the Governor of Macao inspected the guard of honour, after which the Portuguese visitors left for Government House, following a route well lined by spectators.

As reported in Monday's issue, the Governor of Macao and Madame Coutinho on arrival in Hongkong were escorted to Government House to be the guest of H.E. the Governor and Lady Lugard during their stay in Hongkong. On Monday morning Admiral Sir Arthur Moore paid an official visit to the distinguished visitors, the call being returned in the afternoon. After this Senhor Coutinho and his wife called on Consul General and Mrs. Romano. In the evening an official dinner was given at Government House by Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard in honour of the visitors, at which the following attended:—His Excellency Monsieur Coutinho (Governor of Macao) and Madame Coutinho, Captain Menezes (Chief of Staff, Macao), Captain da Fonseca Monteiro, A.D.C., Lord and Lady French, Lieutenant Santos, A.D.C., Captain Marescaux (Kent), Captain Araozes Pedrosa (Rio Lima), Lieutenant Coulart de Medeiros, Lieutenant Vital de Freitas, Commander Glennie (Waterwitch), Major Bayliff R.M.L.I., Lieutenant Brock (Chio), Lieutenant Blackwood (Alacrity), Captain Brierly, Captain and Mrs. Murray,

Captain McCulloch, Captain and Mrs. Collingwood, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. May, Mr. Bramble R.M.L.I., Mr. Satterthwaite R.E., Mr. Dalyell (29th Baluchis), Consul A. G. Romano, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Leiria, Rev. and Mrs. Ennis, Mr. and Mrs. Eves, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. Loche, Mr. and Mrs. Lafren's Mr. Chard, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Mr. Williams, Captain Mitchell-Taylor and Mr. A. J. Brackenbury (Private Secretary).

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

January 15th.

PROPOSED CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

The government at Lisbon has sanctioned the expenditure of a sum not exceeding \$100,000 on improvements in the City of Macao, including the making of roads in the bazaar and lanes in other parts of the City with a view to improving the sanitation of the city. The vote for the undertaking does not appear to err on the side of extravagance, as the scheme involves the expropriation of considerable house property. Its progress will be watched with interest by the public, and especially by the landlords affected.

ESCAPES FROM GAOL.

On Saturday morning the military guard at the public gaol discovered that four prisoners had escaped from their cell. The suspicions of the guard were aroused by the silence within the cell. Accordingly the turnkey was sent for, but he could not be found within the precincts of the gaol. Ultimately he was found at Tapsiac where he runs a small dairy. On his return to the gaol and opening the cell door the guard's suspicions were confirmed. The prisoners had cut one of the iron bars of the cell window, but apparently finding that they could not successfully escape by the window, they broke the wooden ceiling of the cell and made their way on the roof, finding a safe exit apparently in another part of the prison yard. This is the second time an escape has been made recently from the gaol, and it is obvious that some inquiry is desirable as to the way in which the duties of the gaol officials are performed.

MOTOR-BOAT TRIP TO CANTON.

OVER EIGHT MILES AN HOUR FOR 20 HOURS.

This is a story of Five Men in a Boat, to say nothing of the Motor. When their friends learned that they intended, in an open boat only 26 feet long by 4 feet 3 in. beam, to attempt the 162 mile run to Canton and back (from Hongkong, of course) the Skipper, the Chief Engineer, the Steward, and the Passenger were called in my names, none of them complimentary. The fifth, a Chinese, treated the undertaking as such a commonplace affair that the others paid less attention to the solemn warnings of their friends than they might otherwise have done. Provisioned for a week, the "Kelvin," named after its motor, left at 8.40 a.m. on Saturday, and reached Canton via Whampoa at 7.2 p.m., against a seriously adverse tide all the way. It was also a non-stop run. The motor needed, or at least got, no attention whatever, from the moment it started.

The voyage was without any incident worth recording. Huge flocks of wild duck were seen in range on the lower reaches of the river. There were a few recriminations, as, for instance, when the Steward dropped the leg of mutton in the oily bilge, and the Chief Engineer, breaking an egg against the "magnet" to make mustard, got a shock that made his language of a kind to pass that on to the others.

Four hours rest at Canton was permitted, and the return journey started at something to eleven, the party disembarking at the Statue wharf at 10.35 yesterday morning. The route followed is charted at 81 miles, and the log shows an average speed for the twenty hours running of a fraction over eight miles an hour. Coming down in the night, the motor was left to mind its own business, the only men on watch being the Skipper, staring at his compass in the light of a lantern dimly burning, and munching biscuits with a top dressing of cylinder oil.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND
MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Continued from last week.)

(To be CONCLUDED next week!)

A SHIPPING WAR ENDED.

THE N.Y.K. WITHDRAW FROM THE BANGKOK
RUN.

We are informed by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, Agents for the Norddeutscher Lloyd Orient Line, that an arrangement has been come to between the N.D.L. and the N.Y.K. whereby the latter withdraw entirely from the Bangkok run on terms satisfactory to both parties.

COMMERCIAL.

PIECE GOODS.

From Messrs. Hbert & Co.'s Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, January 9th, 1908:—Business has opened very quietly, partly owing to the approach of China New Year which falls this year on the 21st proximo. Beyond a small inquiry from Newchwang for American Shootings for shipment via Dalny, which has been filled by Chinese holders at Tls. 3.75 to Tls. 3.85 for 31 yards quality, very little new business has been reported. The attention of the trade has been centred on Exchange which has risen 21 to 24, during the week; the rise in silver has been even more rapid, an advance of 24, being recorded yesterday since the end of the year, whilst to-day there is a reaction of 1. Until there is some prospect of comparative steadiness, both Chinese and foreign importers are practically suspending large operations; the former are disposed to make the most of the advance, trying to obtain concessions in the few purchases they may be negotiating, but are not meeting with much success as current rates for goods are still a long way below replacing cost, even at 27½ exchange. The market for Bombay yarn may be quoted about Tls. 1.00 per bale lower, but sellers generally are holding their hand. Clearances of American goods last year have been on a smaller scale than for many years, and as stocks both here and in the North are getting into small compass, whilst supplies on the way are very light, the prospects for the Spring are brighter than has been the case for some time; anxious as importers are to do business they will not go on clothing the Chinese at a loss indefinitely. The export from England for December is on a reduced scale, although dyed and printed goods are still heavier than the condition of the market here would seem to warrant; it is, however, unlikely that the heavy shipment made in January to March 1907 will be repeated this year, and as stocks are gradually being reduced to small proportions the market ought to be in a healthy state as soon as demand for the Spring begins. Grey Shirtings Steady. The market has been quiet during the week, but transactions have again been on rather low line, chiefly owing to the firm attitude of stockholders. T. Cloths.—Only one sale figures in on this head in Dragon and Phoenix at 11.00. Prices at the auctions were on the easy side. Jeans.—Dealers have shown a little more interest in these and a sale of 400 pairs, 2 Ows at Tls. 3.22 has been effected. Auctions firm. White Shirtings.—Business has been a little quieter and quotations remain at about the level reached last week. Drills.—Tientsin merchants have been in the market with orders for American drills and some orders have been booked on their account at Tls. 1.30. Shootings.—Market firm. A certain amount of speculative buying has been going on of which it is difficult to get particulars, besides which we hear that a fair quantity has been booked by Newchwang merchants for shipment to that port via Dalny. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—No private business appears to have been done and dealers are able to supply all their wants with auction goods and second-hand purchases of old stocks. Fast Black Cotton Listings were irregular at the auctions, but the variations in price did not amount to much. Woollens and Woollens.—We have no change to report. All Woollens were firm at the auctions. Cottons.—Demand for the local staple has been rather slack during the week and prices are a shade lower at the close for most grades. Yarn.—The market for local Spinnings continues steady, whilst Japanese and Indian Yarns are, if anything, rather easier owing to the sudden reaction in the silver market and the absence of demand.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade dated Shanghai 9th January, 1908, states:—Exchange has fairly well monopolised all interest during the interval since our last, the reaction that has taken place comprising a sudden advance of upwards of ten per cent, being sufficient to upset any business which it is one of the chief factors. No one seems to really grasp the way and the extent of these violent fluctuations, which leads to the conclusion that it must be a game played by due to speculative gambling, in which unfortunately traders on this market have been fairly well involved, and the infection appears to have spread to the Indian Bazaars. However, the resultant influence here has been to make business more impossible than ever in the ordinary way, though the more favourable forward rates has enabled, to a small extent, the resumption of

transactions with New York, though they are looked upon as being somewhat bold and speculative. There is a certain amount of enquiry, and a number of buyers are on the look out to pick up anything cheap to keep on storage in anticipation of a better consumptive demand in the Spring. The market has not been entirely devoid of transactions from first hand stocks, but they are almost entirely first quantities and considerably below replacing cost. But the greater part of the business done continues to be speculative, comprising American Shootings and Drills chiefly, some 2,000 bales of which have been resold to Tientsin and Newchwang in the proportion of about 8 to 20, and all for shipment via Ching-wantao. The situation in Manchuria is getting quite interesting, the wall of Japanese monopoly is meeting with unexpected opposition from untold quantities of Japanese goods, it is difficult to say if Newchwang and so is going to couple with her railways with that Port, and a Chinese Custom House being established at Port Arthur would point to the unprofitable occupation of that Port and its hinterland as an exclusive hunting ground for trade, so that altogether things are shaping more favourably for a better Foreign trade in the Spring. As regards Tientsin rumour has it that at least one firm of direct importers contemplates shipping some of its stock on hand to Shanghai, owing to the impossibility of selling there except on the credit system. The returns of stocks lying there have not yet been made to us. The amount of my imports exist. The Manchuria situation is undulating, the margin between prices there and those obtainable here being from ten to fifteen per cent. Cotton has dropped about 10 points, Liverpool closing at 60s. 1 for Mid. American, while "futures" are 59½. Meanwhile Liverpool has declined to 9½. The latest New York quotation for the former is 10.66 cents. Much cotton. The Export of Plain Cottons from England during December was 26,000,000 yards to Hongkong and China, making a total of 332,000,000 yards, against 11,000,000 yards in 1906. The New York market is easier, and after a long interval it has at last been found possible to buy some goods for this market. Drills have been the fabric settled on, the steady position being the more favourably, and although prices look to come dangerously high it is possible this market will be ready for them when they arrive. Woollens and 3000 bales have been booked, part being P. J. Penfold at 12½ to 24, and part 325 yards metres at 10s. 1½. The results of the Auctions have not been so favourable as was expected this week, considering the numbers were extended until after the Native New Year holidays. The advance in exchange has had a counteracting effect. There is no special feature to which to call attention however. Clearances on the whole have been fairly good.

SILK

From Mr. F. C. Hether's report, dated Shanghai, January 8th, 1908:—Owing to the New Year holidays intervening, no regular has been issued since December 11th. Telegram report put Markets at Home and special to Cecil Kilgus in London at 11.3. Raw Silk. During the interval Exchange dropped from 27.13 to 27.2, but has again advanced to 28. There is no business to report in Tientsin and only a few small amounts have been made in Canton Silk.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

From P. & O. Steamship Co.'s report, dated Jan. 1908:—For Manilla 200 bales of silk. For Cebu 100 bales of silk. For Manila 100 bales of silk. For Hongkong 100 bales of silk. For Shanghai 100 bales of silk. For Canton 100 bales of silk. For Amoy 100 bales of silk. For Swatow 100 bales of silk. For Ningbo 100 bales of silk. For Hangchow 100 bales of silk. For Soochow 100 bales of silk. For Suzhou 100 bales of silk. For Yangzhou 100 bales of silk. For Nanjing 100 bales of silk. For Beijing 100 bales of silk. For Tianjin 100 bales of silk. For Jinan 100 bales of silk. For Zhengzhou 100 bales of silk. For Xuzhou 100 bales of silk. For Luoyang 100 bales of silk. For Kaifeng 100 bales of silk. For Zhengzhou 100 bales of silk. For Xuzhou 100 bales of silk. For Luoyang 100 bales of silk. For Kaifeng 100 bales of silk.

For Copenhagen 100 bales of silk. For Stockholm 100 bales of silk. For London 100 bales of silk. For New York 100 bales of silk. For San Francisco 100 bales of silk. For Hongkong 100 bales of silk. For Shanghai 100 bales of silk. For Canton 100 bales of silk. For Amoy 100 bales of silk. For Swatow 100 bales of silk. For Ningbo 100 bales of silk. For Hangchow 100 bales of silk. For Soochow 100 bales of silk. For Suzhou 100 bales of silk. For Yangzhou 100 bales of silk. For Nanjing 100 bales of silk. For Beijing 100 bales of silk. For Tianjin 100 bales of silk. For Jinan 100 bales of silk. For Zhengzhou 100 bales of silk. For Xuzhou 100 bales of silk. For Luoyang 100 bales of silk. For Kaifeng 100 bales of silk. For Zhengzhou 100 bales of silk. For Xuzhou 100 bales of silk. For Luoyang 100 bales of silk. For Kaifeng 100 bales of silk.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 9th January 1908, has the following:—Gallnuts.—Europe has at last shown an interest in this article and a very good business has been done. The inquiry continues. Prices are very low compared with those of last season. Cowhides.—After a very large business had been done buyers have for the moment stopped operations and dealers are in consequence reducing their prices somewhat. The quality of available lots leaves, however, much to be desired. Feathers.—Little business doing, supplies coming in slowly and dealers speak of a much reduced supply this year. It is, however, expected that the available quantity will be same as last season. Cotton.—There is no strength in the market and there is a disposition to take lower prices. Tallow.—Business continues good at steady figures. Strawbraid.—A few settlements in Loyoh White and Matau Tusein, otherwise market dead. Sesamum Seed.—Business continues, although on a smaller scale. There is a fair supply of ready cargo in consequence of which prices are easier. Wool.—Sheep's.—The situation remains much the same. Hides in the interior are keeping the wool back waiting for higher prices. They will hardly be successful as America is not showing the least disposition to operate. Wool Oil.—A very large business is being done at steady figures. The large crop prevents prices from advancing. Antimony.—Some interest is again shown for this metal and prices are hardening. A fair business is being done. Good inquiries are in the market.

Per P. & O. steamer Nile, sailed 15th January 1908 For Liverpool:—2575 bales of wool. For London 1 tin box private effects, 251 rolls of clothing, 2000 lbs of hardware, 5 wrapping cases, private effects, 50 bales of feathers, 70 bales of hemp, 200 bales of wool, 7 cases of black woodware, 10 cases of wood oil. For Manchester:—25 bales of waste silk. For Glasgow:—18 cases of woodware, 2 cases of chinaware. For Marseilles:—4 bales of human hair, 5 cases of essential oil.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, January 20th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	117 1/2
Bank Bills on demand	117 1/2
Bank Bills at 30 days' sight	117 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	117 1/2
Credits at 4 months' sight	117 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	117 1/2
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	240 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	240 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand	196
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	164
Credits, 60 days' sight	17 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	14 1/2
Bank, on demand	14 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	142 1/2
Bank on demand	142 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	7 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	7 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	93 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	93 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	21 1/2 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	115
ON BOMBAY.—On demand	4 1/2 p.m.
ON BANGALORE.—On demand	4 1/2 p.m.
ON BOMBAY.—On demand	4 1/2 p.m.
GOVERNMENT, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tola	\$74.65
SILVER, per oz	25 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent
Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$1.65 discount,
" 10 " " "	4.00 "
Hongkong 20 " " "	3.50 "
" 10 " " "	4.60 "

SHARE REPORTS.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1908.—Our market during the past week has continued more or less quiet as last reported, and with the exception of a further advance in Sugars and a decline in Banks, closed without any features of special interest. Exchange on London closed at 110 1/2 T. P. and on Shanghai at 74 1/2 T. P. The Bank of England rate of discount has been lowered to 5 per cent, and the open market rate is again easier at 4 1/2 per cent for three months bills. Consols are quoted at £83 and Bar Silver at 25 1/2.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, in sympathy with a decline in the London rate, £81, ruled easier at \$720 for old in the earlier part of the week, and at the close have further receded to \$710, following the additional fall advised by Reuters in the London rate to-day. The new issue is now quoted at \$75, at which rate shares are procurable. It is officially announced that the directors will, at the forthcoming meeting, recommend the payment of a dividend of £2 per share on the old issue; a pro rata dividend of £1.10s. per share on the new issue; add to the silver reserve fund \$100,000, and carry forward about \$2,000,000. In addition to the above the amount received as premium on the new shares has been dealt with as follows:—(1) To the purchase of Co. so's of sufficient nominal value to increase at 82 the sterling reserve fund by £500,000 which fund will then stand at £1,500,000. (2) To transfer to the silver reserve fund the balance of \$1,250,000. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$825 and \$827½, and close with buyers at the former rate. Can'tons are still procurable at \$242½, and North Chinas at Tls. 87. Yangtze's and China Traders are unaltered, and we have no business to report in either stock.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's have further improved their position, and have been booked at \$335 closing with buyers. Chinas close firm with sales at \$35.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Mucos have ruled erratic with sales ranging between \$29 and \$28½, closing with sellers at \$28½. Indo-Chinas are easier with sellers at \$39 and \$27 for the preferred and deferred combined. It is reported that the Company's steamer "Yiksang" with a cargo of coal from Moji for Canton has been wrecked off Swatow and is likely to become a total loss. Chinas and Manilas, Star Ferries, and Shells are unchanged. Douglas's have again been done at \$40.

REFINERIES.—A further advance has been established in China sugars which are now quoted at \$107 buyers, but at \$18 a few shares are procurable. Luzous continue in request at \$10.

MINING.—Raubs are easier with 1 c 1 s sales at \$8½. Charbonnages are still in demand at \$50, and a higher rate would probably be paid for a suitable parcel. Chinese Engineerings are enquired for in the North at Tls. 15.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$95, and can now be placed to a limited extent at \$96. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after sales of old at \$55, and \$54, close with sellers at \$55 and \$53 for the old and new issues respectively. Shanghai Docks in the north advanced in the early part of the week to Tls. 78, but close easier with sellers at Tls. 77. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have declined to Tls. 211 at which rate, however, there are buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, after sales at \$94, have improved to \$95 with buyers. We hear that the usual dividend of \$3½ per share for the half year will be paid by this Company. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged. Humphrey's Estates, after sales at \$10½, declined to \$10 at which rate more shares are wanted. This Company will recommend at the forthcoming meeting the payment of a dividend of 70 cents per share for 1907, as against 80 cents paid for 1906. Shanghai Lands are wanted in the north at the slightly reduced rate of Tls. 103. Hongkong Hotels continue in request at \$14 but still without business.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to Tls. 59, but otherwise we have no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have again been booked at \$10½ and China Providents at \$9½, the latter closing with sellers. Green Island Cements are unchanged with sales at \$11½, after a small sale at \$11½, at which rate, however, there are buyers. Dairy Farms have been done at \$17 and more shares are procurable. Watsons have improved to \$10½, and Langkats to Tls. 365.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	{ \$125 } { \$710, sellers } { \$125 } { \$705, sellers } { \$125 } { Ln. 281 }	
National B. of China	£6	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.		\$10½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$6, sellers } { \$1 } { }	
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 59
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 65
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	{ \$55, old } { \$53, new sellers }
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$96, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 77
Shai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 211
Penwick & Co., Genl.	\$25	\$14
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$104, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$242½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sales & buy.
North China	\$5	Tls. 87, sellers
Union	\$100	\$825, buyers
Yangtze	\$50	{ \$145 } { \$135 }
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$95, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 103
West Point Building	\$50	\$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fr. 250	\$500, buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$84, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$13 } { \$1 } { \$2 }	
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$107, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$25½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	{ \$39, sellers } { \$27, sellers }
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$4
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$12½, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$20
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$170, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 19th January, 1908, states:—We did not issue a circular on January 2 last week, as usual, owing to the New Year holidays on the 1st and 2nd. The previous week we had practically been without a share market over the Christmas holidays. Since we opened on the 3rd, however, a considerable business has taken place, mostly in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves, and the market has shown a distinct revival as far as the volume of business is concerned. The T.T. on London to-day is 27. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. Since our last these have suffered a severe decline and at the

close shares are offering at \$740 for the old and \$755 for the new. Insurance.—Union Insurance Society. Without business reported, the rate in Hongkong is \$825. Yangtze Insurance. There are buyers of the old at \$146, and the new at \$135. Hongkong Fire Ins. A local sale was made at \$320, but shares have since been placed at \$380. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. A single sale is reported for January at Tls. 30½ for the Pref. and Tls. 20½ for the Def. For cash we quote Tls. 30½ and Tls. 20½ respectively. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Ordinary shares have advanced to Tls. 47½. The preference are still on offer at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd. This stock has had a smart advance from Tls. 71½ to Tls. 76. March shares have been placed at Tls. 79 and Tls. 78, closing with buyers at the latter figure. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. A very substantial rise has taken place during the week and a large business has been put through. The prevailing rates at the opening of our market were Tls. 207½ for cash and Tls. 213 for March. Persistent buying carried the rates to Tls. 215 for cash, Tls. 217 for January and Tls. 225 for March, on the 7th instant. A reaction then set in and at the close we quote Tls. 214 for January delivery and Tls. 218 for March, buyers. Sugars.—Perak Sugars. There are sellers at Tls. 80. Mining.—There is nothing reported. Lands. We have to report a substantial rise in this stock. The Market opened at Tls. 104 buyers. No shares were obtainable at any time under Tls. 106 at which rate a fair business was done. The market closes slightly easier. Industrial Cottons. Ewo Cottons have advanced since our last and rates at closing are Tls. 55 cash and Tls. 57 March buyers. Lao Kung-mow. There are small buyers at Tls. 55. Shanghai Gas Co. There are buyers in the market at Tls. 108. China Flours have sellers at Tls. 58. Maatschappij, etc. in Langkats. There has not been very much business done during the week. Rates at opening being Tls. 367½ for cash and Tls. 382½ for March. There has been a weakish tendency since, and rates have slightly declined to Tls. 365 cash and Tls. 377½ for March. Shanghai Sumatras. These shares have had a very substantial advance, and business was done in the early part of the week at Tls. 130 for cash and Tls. 132½ for March. A few shares were then on offer and we quote the market at closing as Tls. 127½ for cash and Tls. 130 for March sellers. Shanghai Waterworks Co. There are buyers at quotations. Miscellaneous.—A sale of Moutries is reported at \$41. Weeks & Co. have changed hands at \$21. Shanghai Mutual Telephone have declined to Tls. 52. Other stocks under this heading remain at quotations below. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Gas six per cent. Debts. have been placed at Tls. 98½. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves six per cent. Debentures. There are buyers at Tls. 98½.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Business continues dull. From Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul last to Philippines, no demand; to Java, several fixtures at 20 21 cents per picul, January loading. From North Coast Java to this, nothing doing. Pulo Laut to Hongkong, \$2.25; to Kohsi-chang, \$2.00 per ton. From Kamranh Bay to Manila, a handy sized boat has been chartered to load cattle. South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.20 per ton last; to Canton, \$1.90 per ton; to Swatow, \$1.75. Tim's charters. The *Solstad* closed for 2 months option two for cattle trade. The following are the settlements:—

Yikang—British steamer, 1,236 tons, Waka-matsu to Canton, \$1.90 per ton.
Rebory—British steamer, 2,510 tons, Kuchimoto to Singapore, \$1.60 per ton.
Roma—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Haiphong to Canton, \$1.60 per ton.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Pulo Laut to Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton.
Sper—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Pulo Laut to Kohsi-chang, \$2.00 per ton.
Kjeld—Norwegian steamer, 910 tons, Kamranh Bay to Manila (cattle) \$5.500 lump sum.
Huachu—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Takao and Anping to Yokohama and Kobe, 15 cents per picul.
A. Watt—Watts steamer, Saigon to port North Coast Java, 20 cents per picul.
Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Saigon to port North Coast Java, 20 cents per picul and 21 cents per picul.
Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.
Solstad—Norwegian steamer, 897 tons, monthly, 2 1/2 months, at \$4,500 per month (cattle) trade.

